

SMALL GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Watch the video summary of the **August 3, 2014 Sermon** (3.5 minutes), "The Question of Justice."

Please read the sermon passage (Luke 18:1-8) together out loud.

Small Group Questions (Luke 18:1-8)

Sermon Outline:

IN LIGHT OF THE LORD'S RETURN . . .

1. **Value the persistence of prayer** (vv 1-5)
 - a. Prayer is not optional--it is a requirement.
 - b. We continually pray because God has ordained prayer as the means through which he acts. In other words, God responds to our prayers. (Luke 11:9-)
2. **Value the promise of justice** (vv 6-8a)
 - a. Jesus contrasts his own (just) ministry with that of a human "unjust judge."
 - b. God will take injustices and use them to draw people to the just judge (himself) (1 Pet 2:21-25).
3. **Value the perseverance of faith** (8b)
 - a. While Lot lived in the midst of moral decay in Sodom . . .
 - b. Abraham prayed that God would be merciful (Genesis 18). Abraham persisted in prayer.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: We "ought always" to pray. Believers in Christ are under obligation to continually pray. Do you struggle to obey this teaching? Why or why not?
2. Based on #1, above: We know that God is sovereign (he rules and reigns over all things). Our knowledge of God's sovereignty can remove our motivation to pray, or it can fuel our motivation to pray (because we see that he has ordained that we pray and that he responds to our requests.) Does your knowledge of God's sovereignty help or hurt your prayer life?
3. Based on #2, above: Human injustices are not meant to embitter us and think of God as indifferent or distant. They are meant to fuel our pursuit of him in prayer and reward us with the greatest treasure known to man--finding God (Hebrews 11:1-3). Have the injustices of your world fueled your pursuit of God? Or have they made you bitter? Discuss.
4. Based on #3, above: Persistent prayer is not meant to change God's mind, it is meant to sift our desires and motives, and to crystallize our requests. Unanswered prayer makes us ask ourselves about what we are asking for and why we want it (James 4:1-10). How has unanswered prayer helped your prayer life? How has it sifted your desires? How has it changed your requests?
5. Based on #3, above: Abraham lived in a situation where he was surrounded by the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah, and that sin affected his own family. He did not grow angry, but he persisted in prayer for God's mercy (Genesis 18). Does our culture's slide cause you to preach more to sinners? Complain more to friends? Or pray more to God?