**LUKE: Investigating the Real Jesus**

**The Disciple’s Desperate Dependence on God, Luke 18:1- 17**

Weekend of 6/8-9/24

**Don’t answer out loud, but what kind of person pleases God?** What kind of person knows they are right with God, have Him in their life today, and will be with Him in heaven when they die? **As Jesus makes His way to Jerusalem where He’s told us He’ll be arrested, severely beaten, die/cross, and rise 3 days later, He’s been telling people about the kingdom of God- what it is, how to get in, and how a citizen of God’s kingdom lives. The Bible also calls citizens, believers, Christians, Jesus uses the words followers, disciples, and today He’ll use the word “elect” which means “chosen”.** Different words all referring to the same thing- those who please God/who are right with Him/have Him in their life here on earth/will be with Him in heaven when they die.

**AS A REVIEW: 3 Aspects of the Kingdom of God-** Jesus jumps between these 3 as He teaches.

1. Current human/spiritual aspect- the spiritual work God does to make a person a citizen of His kingdom.
2. Future physical/earthly aspect- Jesus reigning on the earth for 1000 years, fulfills OT promises.
3. Future physical/eternal aspect- new heaven/earth where believers/citizens live for with Jesus eternity. After 1K year reign of Jesus this heaven/earth will be destroyed, those who rejected God’s forgiveness through faith in Jesus will be in judgment in hell for their sin, and God will create a new heaven/new earth for us who received God’s forgiveness to live in.

**So getting back to my question, what does God say pleases Him, makes us right with Him, makes us a citizen of His kingdom? In Hebrews 11:6 it says, “without faith it is impossible to please God.”** Faith- used so much it loses its impact so let me define it in a different way- faith is DESPERATE DEPENDENCE on God. **It’s the D.D. on God of a person who realizes they’ve sinned against God/will be sentenced to hell for eternity unless God forgives them and removes their eternal death sentence.** BUT THAT FAITH DOESN’T STOP once a person has turned to God in faith. **Faith is the D.D. on God of a disciple who realizes they can’t do this life as God commands in their own strength, i.e. last week- forgiving.** A disciple realizes they need to DEPEND on God completely to empower them to take those moment by moment steps of faith to live as He commands.

**TURN TO LUKE 18, pg. 1046 where Jesus gives us 4 POSITIVE examples/1 NEGATIVE example of this kind of DESPERATE DEPENDENCE on God.** We’re just going to dig deep on the 1st 2 positive examples. **The 1st POSITIVE example is explained through parable about a DESPERATE WIDOW.** This widow was so desperate to have the wrong done to her made right she pestered the judge until he ruled. **We get from this that DESPERATE DEPENDENCE MOTIVATES DISCIPLES TO CONTINUALLY PRAY.** Context goes back to Luke 17 where Jesus discusses both the HUMAN/SPIRITUAL and FUTURE, EARTHLY aspects of the kingdom.

1. **DESPERATE DEPENDENCE MOTIVATES DISCIPLES TO CONTINUALLY PRAY, Luke 18:1–8**
2. **CONTEXT: Luke 17:20-37 Kingdom of God Time Frame We’ll talk more about this in Luke 21.**
3. To the RLs- the inner human aspect of the kingdom has come with Jesus’ 1st coming- people place their faith in Jesus to become citizens of God’s Kingdom.
4. He then tells His disciples- the kingdom will come after a time of evil- the church age and the Tribulation.
5. Church age- the time between Jesus’ going back to heaven and taking the church to heaven will be a time of evil and persecution of disciples/followers.
6. Tribulation- 7 years of increased evil/persecution of disciples after the church is taken to heaven.
7. **POINT: Disciples day in/day out, with each insult, worship God through prayerfully crying out to Him so we don’t give up on following Him.**
8. **What’s your response when mocked, questioned, rejected for living life God’s way?**
9. Jesus isn’t just suggesting we turn to God, He’s commanding us, HE WANTS US to turn to Him for what we need and let Him fight for us.
10. **PROMISE: Jesus will right the wrongs His disciples suffer.**
11. Justice- ekdikesis; punishing a person for a crime or wrong done against another; the evil and persecution disciples face.
12. Quickly- taxos; not necessarily soon, but when it happens it will happen fast; ultimately talking about the judgement of those who rejected Jesus prior to Jesus’ reign on the earth.
13. In context: ultimately Jesus will judge all those throughout history who rejected Him and persecuted His disciples when He returns to set up His earthly kingdom.
14. Not told what that might look like before that but to me the best way to right the wrong is for them to come to faith in Jesus.
15. **CONCERN: Jesus wonders if He’ll find that kind of faith He returns.**
16. Will we be desperate enough to pray/cry out in the face of evil/persecution?
17. Will we stand in the gap, like Jesus did, take the pain so they are drawn to Him for salvation?
18. **DESPERATE DEPENDENCE MOTIVATES SINNERS TO ASK FOR GOD’S MERCY, Luke 18:9–14**
19. **SETTING: a Pharisee/RL and TC walk into the Temple**
20. Pharisee- RL who believed his faithfulness in keeping religious rituals made him right with God
21. Tax collector- considered by everyone to be the worst of society, no one more of a sinner than him.
22. Stand looking at a lamb that has just been sacrificed and whose blood represented the sacrifice necessary for the forgiveness of sin; used to teach Israel of the perfect “Lamb of God”- Jesus Christ who would be the final/eternal sacrifice and make it possible for people’s sin to be forgiven for eternity.
23. **PHARISEE: full of self, how good he is, better than others.**
24. Saw the lamb, smelled the burnt flesh, saw the blood running down the alter and out the building but didn’t think that was for him; he was a good person, a great person.
25. Fasted 104x a year vs. 1x the Law commanded; RLs in Jesus’ day fasted 2 days before/2 days after the 3 major religious festivals- 12x a year. **This guy was SUPER religious.**
26. Gave 10% of everything vs. just 10% of his crops the Law commanded.
27. Jesus said he’d spend eternity in hell for his sin- **among others arrogance stands out!**
28. **TAX COLLECTOR: didn’t feel worthy to stand near/look at the lamb.**
29. Saw the lamb, smelled the burnt flesh, saw the blood and could only beat his chest in shame knowing his sin killed that lamb.
30. He could only say- “God be merciful to me, the sinner.”
31. Merciful- hilaskomai; atonement, reconcile. Not the normal word used in the NT (i.e. Luke 18:38)
32. Mercy to remove what stands in the way/make things right between God and him.
33. “God let that lamb’s blood cover my sin.”
34. Jesus said he went home justified- dikaioo; not guilty of his sin.
35. **POINT:** they who exalt themselves will be humbled, but they who humble themselves will be exalted.
36. Depending on self to be right with God will bring God’s judgment for sin.
37. Depending on God to be right with Him will bring forgiveness/salvation from sin..

**You might be thinking, how do I believe this?** How do I, as a disciple, believe that Jesus will right the wrongs done to me if I cry out to Him in prayer? **Or, how do I a sinner, believe that God will forgive me if I ask Him to have Jesus’ death cover my sin? In 18:15-17 the disciples had been trying to keep the children away from Jesus, but Jesus took the opportunity to use the kids as a teaching tool.** Look at what He said. **Luke 18:16-17 DESPERATE DEPENDENCE MOTIVATES DISCIPLES/SINNERS to trust Him like little children trust their parents.** Little children need their parents to do everything for them and trust them to do it. We need God to do everything for us- save us from sin/hell and once saved to give us what we need to live life His way. **The band is going to close us out with a song and as they come up let me give us a couple of TAKEAWAYS as we consider how to apply what Jesus has taught.**

**TAKEAWAYS**

1. **Who in your life is giving you a hard time for wanting to follow Jesus?** Not encouraging you, making fun of you, rejecting you, etc.? **As Jesus stood in the gap between God and you on the cross; took your sin/pain on Himself, cried out to God to forgive, in order to draw you to God for salvation, you stand in the gap between God and those who hurt you, cry out to God and draw them to Him for salvation.**
2. **Do you realize you’re a sinner and need God’s mercy? Like the TC call out to God, tell Him you believe Jesus died to cover your sins, ask Him to forgive you and leave here knowing God has justified you- declared you not guilty anymore and right with Him.**