

Exploring the Bible Series 3:  
Parables Unique to the  
Gospel of Luke

Week 7: The Parable of Two Prayers  
(Luke 18:9-14)

# Context? Another Parable!

“The Persistent Widow”! (Luke 18:1-8)

- Also unique to Luke’s Gospel!
- Also about prayer!

Keys to these TWO **linked** parables:

- v.1 Need for prayer (especially during sin & temptation) and
- v.9 Don’t trust in yourself (self-righteousness is a spiritual killer!)

The connection? If we are self-righteous then we don’t think we need to repent, so we don’t ask for help!

Our prayers become self focussed and we despise others!



# The Persistent Widow : The purpose of the Parable

Luke 18:1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.



Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, **let your requests be made known to God;**

Colossians 4:2 **Continue earnestly in prayer,** being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

1Thessalonians 5:16-19 Rejoice always, **pray without ceasing,** in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. **Do not quench the Spirit.**

# Details of the Parable

- The judge did not fear God nor regard people.
- The widow needed avenging from an adversary.
- The judge ignored her for awhile.
- Finally he acted – just so that he could get rid of her continual requesting.





Recall the Parable of the of the Friend at Midnight in Luke 11. It was all about a desperate request for help when “visited” by temptation and sin!

Luke 11:4,5 “Lead me not into temptation” and “Lend me three loaves”.

Why **THREE** loaves? ...

- ✓ Temptation comes in **3** forms → lust of flesh, eyes, and pride (1 John 2:16)
- ✓ God’s Word provides **3** antidotes → hope, faith, and love (1 Corinthians 13:13)

Lust of the Flesh → Want it now

Hope → Wait for it

Lust of the Eyes → See the Present

Faith → See the Future

Pride of Life → It is all about me


Love → It is NOT all about me



# Key Points from the Parable of The Persistent Widow


- ✓ “Always pray and don’t faint” during trials → persistently ask for help!
- ✓ God will ‘avenge’ you on your worst enemy → temptation, sin & death
- ✓ Although he ‘bears long’ with you → The solution will not always come right away, so be patient and tireless!





Luke 18:5 “...lest by her continual coming she **weary** me.”

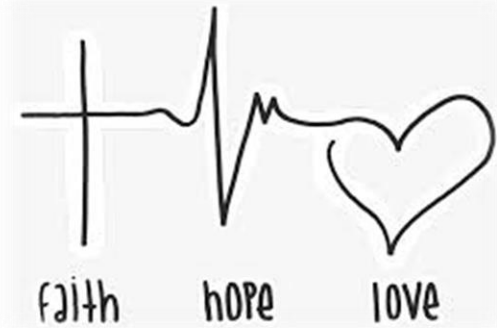
- (RSV) 1 Corinthians 9:25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.
- 26-27 Well, I do not run aimlessly, I do not box as one beating the air; but I **pummel** my body and subdue it, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.



Galatians 5:16-18 I say then: Walk in the **Spirit**, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the **flesh**. For the **flesh** lusts against the **Spirit**, and the **Spirit** against the **flesh**; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the **Spirit**, you are not under the law [of sin and death].

# Luke 18:7 “...though He bears long with them”

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.



Romans 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?





God is patient with us – how patient are we??

Do we ‘endure temptation’?

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Do we ‘overcome’?

“Whoever overcomes...” Rev. 2:7,11,17,26; 3:5,12,21

- Will eat of the tree of life & of the hidden manna
- Will not be hurt of the second death.
- Will given a new name written on a white stone & power over the nations
- Will be clothed in white & be in the Book of Life
- Will be a pillar in the Temple & sit with Christ on his throne.



- “speedily” = hastily, quickly. It may not happen right away, but when God acts it will be sudden! Like the fulfilling of His Prophetic word (Revelation 1:1; 22:6)
- Will He find the kind of faith that is still seeking His help in times of need?
- Have we become too self-reliant, or too self-sufficient?

Luke 18:8 "I tell you that He **will** avenge them **speedily**. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

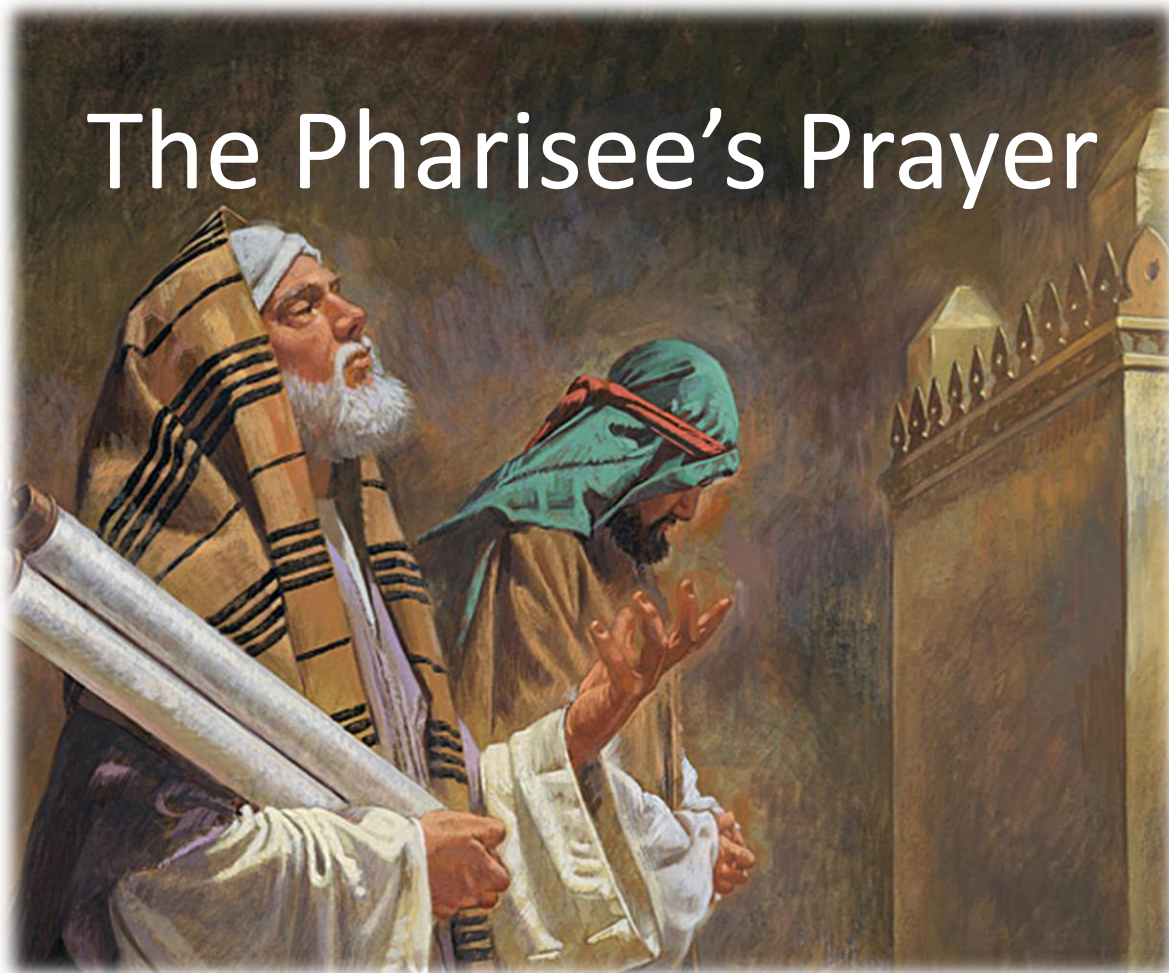
# Parable of the Two Prayers: Pharisee & Publican



Luke 18:9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others...

- Romans 10:1-3 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their **own** righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

# The Pharisee's Prayer



“...prayed  
thus with  
himself...”

“God, I thank thee, that I am *not as other men* are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess....”



# The Publican's Prayer

“God be merciful to me a sinner.”

Luke 18: 14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."



# Lessons:



- ✓ Pray persistently → God will respond to our pleas to be delivered from evil and led from temptation.
- ✓ Do not give into the flesh → pummel it with the spirit!
- ✓ Self-righteousness is a spiritual killer → God is looking for a broken and contrite heart!

