

I. Intro

A. Last week, we studied Luke 17

1. Defined "a disciple" – duties and expectations
2. Marked by – faith and gratitude

B. Why did Jesus take time to define "a disciple"

1. Without His definition, we make up our own
2. Pharisees did it. We do it. – we see "disciple" or "Christian" and define terms
3. Terms have already been defined – Christian is marked by faith and gratitude

C. In Luke 18, Jesus continues to define terms – what is a disciple?

II. Text

A. Luke 18:1-14

1. Another collection of negative parables – (learn from bad examples)
 - a) Unjust judge and persistent widow
 - b) Self-righteous Pharisee and tax collector
2. Vs 1-8
 - a) Unjust judge who fears nobody – Helpless widow with no advocate
 - b) What can the widow do? – Be persistent
 - c) If persistence moves the wicked judge to justice – how much more?
3. Vs 9-14
 - a) Proud Pharisee who pleads his self-righteous case to God – "I"
 - b) Humble tax collector who pleads his case to God – "Mercy"
 - c) What virtue does God respond to – humility
4. *In these parables, what is Jesus teaching?*
 - a) *A disciple is persistent and humble*
 - (1) Persistent in their prayer life
 - (2) Humble in their posture toward God and others
 - b) *Infrequent, unscheduled, irregular prayer is not the model*
 - c) *Arrogance, pride, and vulgarity is not the model*
5. *Discipleship looks most like a child...*

B. Luke 18:15-17

1. Story reinforces the previous parables
 - a) How should we approach God? – persistence and humility
 - (1) Children have a kind of tenacity with their requests
 - (2) Children are completely dependent on others
 - b) Disciples should be like these children!
2. *Interaction has a secondary teaching*
 - a) *Jesus says – be like this*
 - b) *Jesus also says – treasure and care for this*
3. *Why does Jesus need to teach us to treasure children? God's image bearers?*
 - a) *When presented with treasuring people or stuff, we often choose stuff*
 - b) *When choosing riches or relationship, we often choose riches*

C. Luke 18:18-30

1. Jesus meets a rich man who has everything and has done everything
 - a) However, he is unfulfilled, wants eternal life
 - b) Jesus declares – sell everything and give to the poor, follow me
 - c) Choose relationship over riches
2. Here we have the third aspect of discipleship in Luke 18 – surrender
 - a) *Disciples surrender a valuable thing for an even more valuable thing*
 - b) *Not every disciple surrenders riches, but every disciple surrenders something*
 - c) *And, surrender has the added benefit of a blessing*
3. Disciples are so confused – If the rich won't inherit, who will?!
 - a) Confusion speaks to their blindness about discipleship and Jesus
 - b) Luke addresses this "blindness" in the closing section of Luke 18

D. Luke 18:31-43

1. Verse 31 begins with an invitation – see!
 - a) However, disciples can't see – things are hidden
 - b) Couldn't see discipleship clearly
 - c) Couldn't see Christ's mission clearly

2. Verse 35 begins with a blind man
 - a) Blind beggar is a real story that reads like a parable
 - b) Disciples can't see. Beggar can't see.
3. *What do we do when we can't see?! – Cry out to God!*

III. Conclusion

A. Let's recap Luke 18

1. Started defining terms:
 - a) A disciple is persistent
 - b) A disciple is humble
 - c) A disciple surrenders
2. Next, we have actual disciples who can't see any of this
3. Finally, we have the prescription for how we CAN see all of this

B. What is the prescription?

1. Persistent crying out in prayer – like the beggar, crying out all the more (vs 39)
2. A humble posture to God – like the beggar and tax collector “have mercy on me”
3. A surrender of the old life – turning from begging to following Jesus (vs 43)

C. Prescription to see is the definition of being a disciple!

1. The chapter is a circle:
 - a) Jesus says, this is a disciple
 - b) Disciples say, I don't see it
 - c) Jesus says, cry out in prayer with persistence, humility, and surrender
 - d) Wait, isn't that what a disciple is? – Exactly!
2. Can you see how this creates a dependency on God?
 - a) You can't obey because you don't see
 - b) You cry out to see, and the moment you do, you start to obey

D. So, here is my exhortation for today – pray! cry out to God!

1. Doesn't matter if you are a non-believer or 40-year veteran
2. The promise is the same - cry out, and He will change you!