Two Parables

Jeff Trahan · Luke 18:1–8

INTRODUCTION

- If there's one thing that stands out about the life of Jesus, as it's recorded in the Gospels, is that Jesus prayed often.
- When he finished one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray."
- I want us to look at a couple of parables that Jesus told about prayer.

1 We Need to Be Persistent in Prayer

Luke 18:1–8; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Colossians 4:2

- He told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.
- If an unjust judge, if an unrighteous person will eventually grant the request of someone intreating him, then what do you think a loving God is going to do?
- The reason we're to be persistent in prayer is not so that we can overcome God's reluctance to answer us. It's because we know that God will hear us.
- When it seems that God doesn't hear us, what we're told is that we need to continue to pray anyway.

2 We Ought to Be Bold in Prayer

Luke 11:5–13; James 4:2; Hebrews 4:16

- The point Jesus is making in this other parable is that we ought to be bold in prayer.
- The word that Jesus used that Luke records is a word that literally means shameless.
- If a man like that will grant the request, even though he doesn't want to do it, how much more will a loving God grant the request of his people?
- James would say, "You do not have." Why? Because you do not ask. And that's often our problem, isn't it? We don't ask.
- Let us keep on coming with boldness to the throne of grace so that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. We need to be bold in our prayers.

3 Our Prayers Must Be Offered in Faith

Matthew 21:22; James 1:5–8

- We need to be people who ask in faith. Our prayers must be offered in faith.
- He was talking about having confidence that God not only hears us, but that God also acts upon the things that we request of him.
- We have to believe that we serve a God who answers prayers.
- But let him ask in faith with no doubting. For the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

4 Our Prayers Need to Be According to God's Will

1 John 5:14; Matthew 6:10; James 4:3

- This is the confidence that we have toward him." That if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.
- Prayer is one of the ways that we seek to promote the will of God. It's not how we get God to do our will.
- I'm saying that our requests ought to be consistent with the revealed will of God. Prayer is not a selfish pursuit.
- You ask and do not receive because you ask wrongly.

5 Our Prayers Must Be Accompanied by a Life of Obedience

1 John 3:22; 1 John 1:7

- Our prayers must be accompanied by a life of obedience.
- Whatever we ask, we receive from him. because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.
- John wasn't talking about a sinless person here. But he was talking about a faithful person.
- If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus his son cleanses us from all sin.

THE CHALLENGE

Let's be the people God has called us to be. Let's live the kind of lives that bring honor to him. and let's petition him for those things that we need to be his people and to give him that honor and that glory.

MY NOTES