

Have you heard the one about?

**A STUDY OF THE
PARABLES OF JESUS**

Luke 18

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

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Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. (literally – not lost heart)

Luke 18

² He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought.

Luke 18

² He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared (literally respected) what people thought.

Luke 18

³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

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³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

Grant me justice against the one who has treated me unjustly.

Luke 18

4 “For some time he refused. But finally, he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or respect what people think,

Luke 18

⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!"

Luke 18

⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me (lit. causing me pain), I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!" (literally give me a black eye).

Luke 18

⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says.

Luke 18

⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?

Luke 18

⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

Characters

Characters

- Judge

Characters

- Judge
 - Does not fear God or care about (respect) what people think
 - *Adikias*

Characters

- Judge
- Widow
 - Is desperate.

Characters

- Judge
- Widow
 - Is desperate.
 - She is craving the Kingdom whether she knows it or not. Her desire for things to be right, for injustice to be overcome is what drives her.

Role Reversal

Luke 18

⁴ “For some time he refused. But finally, he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or respect what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’”

Action

- The persistent pursuit by the powerless and vulnerable for things to be made right.

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- Christ connects her pursuit of justice to prayer.

Sidebar

- Expect injustice
- Pursue justice
- God will answer the prayers for justice (for things to be made right).

Action

- The persistent pursuit by the powerless and vulnerable for things to be made right.
- Christ connects her pursuit of justice to prayer.

Why Pray?

Why Pray?

- Do we pray so that God knows what we want?

Why Pray?

Why Continue to Pray?

Why Continue to Pray?

- Do we keep on praying because it lets God know how much we want/need it? Or how serious we are about it?

Why Pray?

- Praying is ultimately about intimacy.

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- Praying is ultimately about intimacy.
- Intimacy is about sharing.

Why don't we pray?

Why don't we pray?
Why do we stop praying?

Why don't we pray?
Why do we stop praying?

- Lack of faith

Why don't we pray?
Why do we stop praying?

- Lack of faith
- Don't see God doing anything.

Why don't we pray?
Why do we stop praying?

- Lack of faith
- Don't see God doing anything.
- Not sure what God wants to do.

Why don't we pray? Why do we stop praying?

- Lack of faith
- Don't see God doing anything.
- Not sure what God wants to do.
- We get distracted, tired, bored

Why Should We Persist in Prayer?

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- NOT because it changes God

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- Because God wants us to

Why Should We Persist in Prayer?

- NOT because it changes God
- Because God wants us to
- Because Jesus did.

Matt. 26

Matt. 26

³⁶ Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

Matt. 26

³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

Matt. 26

⁴⁰ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. ⁴¹ “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Matt. 26

⁴² He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

⁴³ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

Why Should We Persist in Prayer?

- Because prayer is ultimately about intimacy.

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- Because prayer is ultimately about intimacy.
- Continuing in Prayer is BOTH a manifestation of the fact that we have not lost heart AND one of the ways we do not lose heart.

Why Should We Persist in Prayer?

- Prayer that doesn't stop is an act of faith

Why Should We Persist in Prayer?

- Prayer that doesn't stop is an act of faith
 - Since prayer is ultimately about intimacy, it is not necessarily that a specific thing will happen, but a trust that God will win and that his character will be seen somehow.

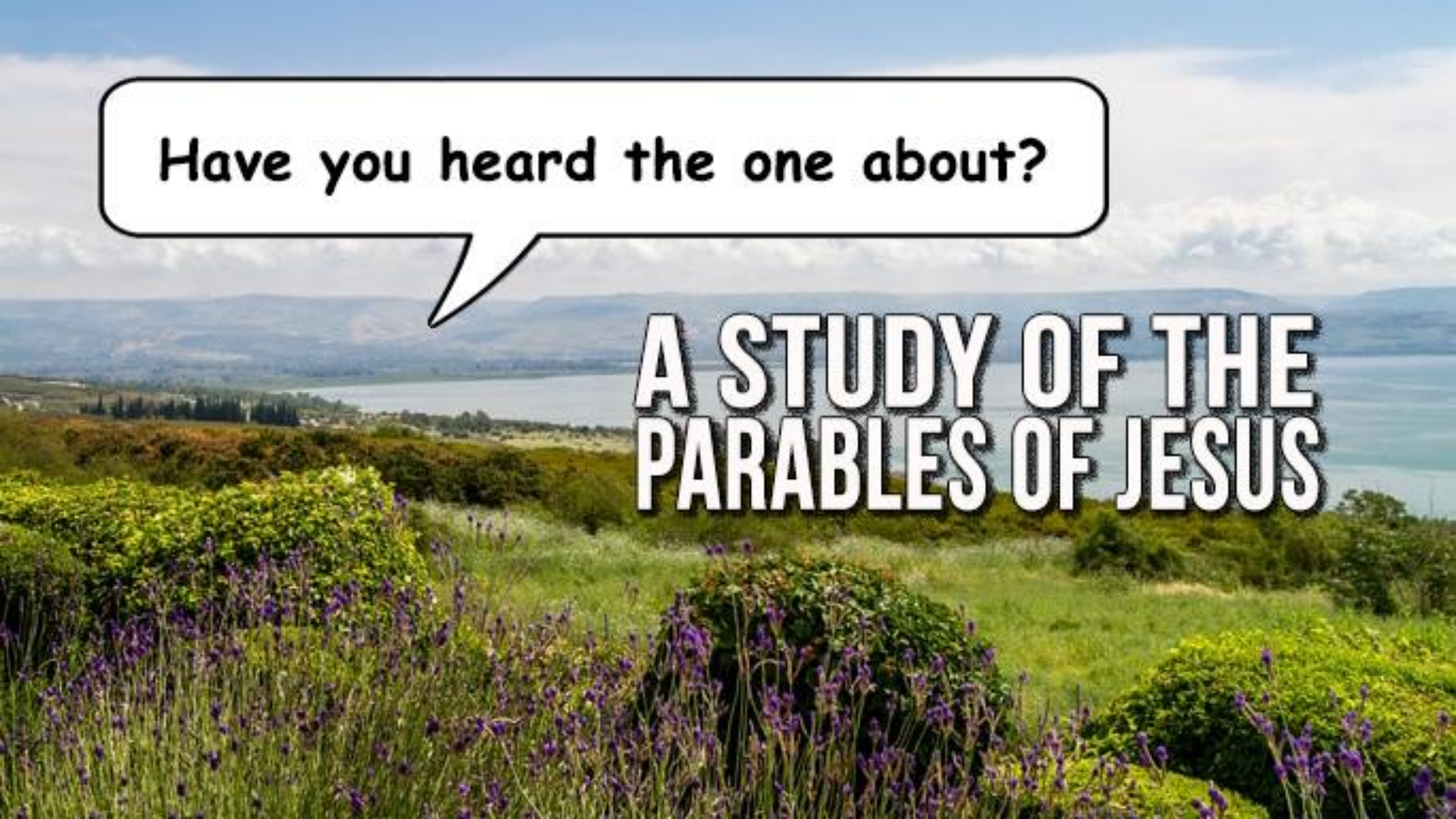
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God's character is not the question. The question is when I return, will I find desperate, vulnerable people continually clinging to the character of God as they await things being made right?



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