

## **“The Purposeful Priority of Prayer”**

### **Luke 18:1-8**

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One of the characteristics of Jesus’ disciples is that we are designed to be a praying people. Prayer is a spiritual discipline that should be prioritized in the life of every believer. There is always something to pray about, especially in perilous times such as these. In today’s teaching, Jesus gives us a glimpse into what it will be like when he returns and the importance of establishing prayer as a purposeful priority.

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#### **#1. THE CONTEXT – WHAT CONDITIONS WILL EXIST ON EARTH WHEN JESUS RETURNS? Luke 17:20-37**

- A. Jesus’ return will be like lightning, v. 24
- B. Jesus returns in conditions like Noah’s day, vv. 26-27
- C. Jesus returns in conditions like Lot’s day, vv. 28-29
- D. Judgment will be quick and lethal, vv. 27 & 29
- E. Judgment or salvation results, vv. 34-35

#### **#2. WHILE WAITING FOR JESUS’ RETURN WE MUST PRIORITIZE PRAYER, Luke 18:1**

- A. Jesus’ disciples should always pray
- B. Jesus’ disciples should never give up praying
- C. Jesus’ disciples can find comfort in prayer

#### **#3. THE PARABLE OF THE UNJUST JUDGE, Luke 18:2-5**

- A. The judge – godless & compassionless, vv. 2 & 4
- B. The widow – helpless & suffering, v. 3
- C. The outcome – I will see that she gets justice, v. 5
- D. The reason – she is bothering me & will wear me out, v. 5
- E. The widow’s prayer life – she was persistent, vv. 3 & 5
- F. The widow’s prayer life – she had boldness, Luke 11:8

#### **#4. THE CONCLUSION – GOD WILL BRING JUSTICE TO HIS PEOPLE, Luke 18:6-8**

- A. God will give justice more than the unjust judge, vv. 6-7
- B. God’s people will be vindicated, v. 7
- C. God’s people wait for vindication, v. 7 (2 Pet 3:9)
- D. God’s people must be a praying community, (Acts 4:23-31)

#### **#5. THE QUESTION – WILL FAITH EXIST AT JESUS’ RETURN, v. 8b**

- A. What kind of faith is Jesus referring to?
  - B. Will Jesus find persistent faith that lends itself to perpetual prayer at his return?
  - C. There is a relationship between prayer and faith (James 1:5-8)
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#### **NOTES:**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what sense is prayer a coping mechanism that helps us in perilous times?
2. Discuss what the conditions were like in Noah's day when the flood came? (Luke 17:26-27)
3. Discuss what the conditions were like in Lot's day when judgment came? (Luke 17:28-29)
4. Discuss Luke 17:30-37
5. What is the connection between the previous section in Luke 17 and Luke 18:1-8 – The parable of the unjust judge?
6. What are some reasons why believers get discouraged and don't pray as often as they should?
7. Describe the personality profile of the judge?
8. Describe the prayer life of the widow?
9. Discuss the quality of "boldness" (*anaideia*) in Luke 11:8
10. What is the point of the parable? How should this parable be encouraging to disciples?
11. What is your takeaway from this teaching?

# *Welcome*

*to*

# *Hillcrest Church!*

  

# *Be Blessed*

# *Worshiping This*

# *Morning!*

*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 18:7*

*January 23, 2022*  
*Pastor Bruce Guckelberg, PhD*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **IN-HOUSE WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY?**

Due to some people testing positive for covid we have taken the necessary precautions by not meeting in person today, but hopefully, will be open for in-house worship on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Check your email and church website for updates.

### **ANNUAL MEETING POSTPONED TO FEBRUARY 6TH**

Due to the covid situation our annual meeting and potluck will be held February 6, right after the worship service, Lord willing.

### **JOIN US FOR OUR ONLINE GATHERINGS**

Tuesday Prayer at 7:00pm

Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30pm

Go to the online meeting room on our website ([hillcrestRoseville.com](http://hillcrestRoseville.com)) to access the gathering.

### **YOGA FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

Saturday 10am yoga is postponed until further notices due covid.

### **BOOKS FOR THE NEXT SERMON SERIES ARE AVAILABLE**

Pastor Bruce's book on legalism is available in the back of the sanctuary for \$20, or any donation. All proceeds of the book go into the building fund.

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Our offering box is in the back of the sanctuary. You can place your tithes and offerings there, or you can visit our website and give online ([hillcrestroseville.com](http://hillcrestroseville.com)).