

## The Discippler's Commentary

### Answer Outline for the Discippler

#### Luke 18

18:1-8 – The parable of the unrighteous judge (or persistent widow)

- Ensure that the disciple remembers that Luke did not write his gospel with chapter and verse headings. Therefore, there is no real break between the subjects of chapter 17 and 18.
- It is important that the disciple see the relationship between this parable and the main theme of the previous chapter concerning the second coming.
- Does the disciple see the relationship between the parables of the unrighteous steward and the unrighteous judge?
- Can the disciple describe the main theme of the parable (persistence in prayer)?
- The disciple will certainly want to understand the plight of widows in biblical times.

Point: The key words are continually coming

- Can the disciple fill in the blank before being given the answer?
- See if the disciple can figure out what the lesson here is. Start with the phrase, "If the unrighteous judge finally grants the widow's request, how much more can...?"
- Ask the disciple to draw some personal applications concerning this parable.
- Ask the disciple what he or she plans on doing as a result of learning about his parable.

18:9-14 – The parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector

- The disciple will want to be reminded that wealth to a Jew is Jesus' time meant having God's favor, and being poor meant being the recipient of God's judgment.
- Have the disciple go through the parable and draw comparisons between the Pharisee's prayer and the tax collector's. Ask what is wrong with the Pharisee's portrayal of himself.
- Have the disciple reflect on the whole concept of repentance, and how important that is in one's relationship with God.

Point: God hears the prayers of the repentant sinner

- See if the disciple can fill in the blank before giving the answer.
- Explain the word "justified" and its relationship to the word "righteous."
- Ask the disciple which category he or she tends to fit themselves in, Pharisee or sinner.

18:15-17 – Jesus blesses the children

- Ask the disciple why he or she thinks Jesus' disciples were "rebuking" children to come to Him.
- Ask the disciple what is the relationship between the faith of a child and the kind of faith that God wants His children to have.
- See if the disciple can draw the relationship between the children and Jesus' teaching on the kingdom of God. It might help for the disciple to understand the Jewish prevailing beliefs concerning the kingdom of God. What does the disciple believe the kingdom of God is?

Point: It's not just a matter of having child-like faith; it's a matter of relationship

- What is the relationship between child-like faith and relationships?
- What does biblical truth always point to? How is it that a person, even a pastor or elder or deacon, can have lots of faith (truth) and not have love?
- Ask the disciple if he or she can draw the relationship between Jesus' teaching on prayer (above parable) and having child-like faith?

18:18-27 – Jesus’ encounter with the rich young ruler

- In teaching this parable, the discipler will want to focus on the fact that the rich young ruler thinks that earning eternal life depends on keeping the Ten Commandments. (There may need to be some explanation of the “two tablets” here.) Note that Jesus places the emphasis on the second of the two tablets; that is, on how one treats others.
- See if the disciple can describe ways many Christians today believe they are going to become a disciple of Jesus. Is it enough just to “accept Jesus” by raising one’s hand or going forward during an invitation at the end of a sermon?
- Ask the disciple why Jesus omitted the tenth commandment regarding coveting.
- Ask the disciple if he or she thinks Jesus was asking too much of the rich young ruler?
- It may be helpful to remind the disciple of the significance of the key words “rich” and “poor” found in the parable. See if the disciple can place himself in the shoes of the ruler in regards to just giving it all to poor people?
- Can the disciple determine what was most valuable to the ruler, and what ruled his heart? See if the disciple can remember the teaching of Luke 16:13.

Point: This is one of the great examples where obeying truth does not equate to love for others

- See if the disciple can fill in the blank on their own.
- Does the disciple see the difference between having truth and manifesting that truth by loving others?
- Ask the disciple if he or she can remember any “bad” Christians. What raised the red flags? Was it what they said about others, or how they acted toward others?
- Now see if the disciple can explain Jesus’ teaching about the eye of the needle.

18:28-30 – Jesus affirms Peter’s observation that the disciples have left all to follow Him

- Can the disciple list the benefits of leaving behind family or financial security for the sake of following Jesus? Who might fit into this category?
- Here again, there may be a difference between being a disciple of Jesus and being a follower.

Point: This statement by Jesus refers (e.g.) to missionaries and persecuted Christians

- If the disciple hasn’t been exposed to the plight of persecuted Christians, this is a good place to do it.

18:31-34 – Jesus warns the disciples what will happen to Him in Jerusalem: Roman crucifixion

- Today’s Bible readers have the benefit of hindsight; that is, we know what happened to Jesus when He went to Jerusalem. Can the disciple recall what Jesus’ disciples believed would happen?
- Why does Luke, inspired by the Holy Spirit, say that “the meaning of this statement was hidden from them”? (v. 34). Why would God hide anything from His children?

Point: Even a sacrificial follower of Jesus can be blinded by a unrealistic expectations

- Ask the disciple what are his or her expectations about becoming a follower of Jesus Christ.

18:35-43 – In Jericho, Jesus heals a man who is physically blind

- Determine if the disciple can see the irony of Bartimaeus, who is physically blind, knowing that Jesus is the “Son of David.”
- See if the disciple can explain the difference between being physically blind and being spiritually blind?

Point: The man was physically blind but could see spiritually

- What makes the change in a person who is spiritual blind, but comes to the point that their spiritual eyesight is clear regarding Jesus?
- What was Bartimaeus’s response to Jesus making him physically able to see?