

THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER

Luke 18:1-14

1. To whom does Jesus tell this parable and what is he teaching (1)? Review his example and teaching on prayer (3:21; 5:16; 6:12; 9:18,28; 11:1-2). Why is he eager to teach his disciples such a spirit of prayer at this time?
2. In his parable, how does Jesus contrast a judge and a widow (2-3)? How does she exemplify the spirit of prayer? Why does the judge finally decide to give in (4-5)?
3. What does Jesus want us to believe about God (6-8a)? What does he mean by “justice for his chosen ones”? How can we keep crying out to God day and night until Jesus comes again (8b)?
4. To whom does Jesus address his next parable (9)? How does he contrast the Pharisee and tax collector (10-13)? What is wrong with this Pharisee, and how might this be a danger for us?
5. How does the tax collector exemplify the spirit of prayer? How does Jesus conclude and what does this tell us about how to pray (14)? In light of Jesus' two parables how can you apply the spirit of prayer personally and in discipleship?