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| **SERIES** | PARABLES |
| **BIBLE** | LUKE 18:1-14 |
| **TITLE/TOPIC** | PRAYER – “Praying Like Monks!” |
| **OVERVIEW** | In our present age we are impatient in waiting for the results we desire. If our life isn’t producing the happiness we desire we are quick to turn to something new. Not pleased in your job – get a new one! Not pleased in your house – move! Not pleased in your relationship – find a different one!  In a culture of satisfying our desires in the moment – Jesus invites us to live in a different way – seek God’s direction through prayer! |
| **SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN** | **INTRO:**  ILL – Praying in a Convent  Late at night in the sanctuary – struggling to press on in prayer through the weariness of sleep.  We often struggle to press on in our pursuit of God because the present makes us weary. We give in to our weariness through compromise – giving up – turning to a way that leads to instant satisfaction.  Jesus invites us to pursue a better way – to pray and never give up! We are invited to “Pray Like Monks”. Monks prayer life is to keep going – day after day – hour after hour – keep pursuing God in prayer!  **1. ALWAYS PRAY! V.1**  “And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought **always to pray** and not lose heart.”  The call/invitation into prayer is to ALWAYS do it!  ILL – Prayer in the Night – Fast 2013  I remember one time during our 24 hour prayer as a church, coming to the prayer room in the middle of the night – it was there in the stillness in the call to keep praying finally being at a place to receive God’s direction.  Always pray! Why?  “Ought…to not lose heart.” So you don’t lose heart.  **2. PERSISTENT PRAYER – VV.2-8**  The first parable in our passage is about the persistent widow who seeks the ungodly judge. A situation that won’t amount in justice.  Jesus says the widow “KEPT coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice…’” (V.3)  What happens?  VV.4-5  “For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, **5**yet because this widow **keeps bothering** me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’”  She gets Justice because she was PERSISTENT!  ILL – Son asking for a new game  Day after day, “Did you talk to mom about it…”  Persistent nature communicates the importance of it.  VV.6-7  “And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. **7**And will not God give justice to his elect, who **cry to him day and night**? Will he delay long over them?”  Prayer isn’t about one time ‘hail Mary’s’ it’s about persistency in approaching God with our requests.  Keep Praying!  **3. HUMBLE PRAYER VV.9-17**  The second parable is about 2 Men:  Man 1 (Pharisee) – Confident in Self – Overly So  VV.11-12  “The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. **12**I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’”  Prayer of Self-Justice!  Man 2 (Tax Collector) – Approaches in Meekness – Humility  V.13  “But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’”  The approach we have in prayer is to come not in confidence in our own abilities to succeed alone but to come dependent on the one who leads us!  It says the Tax Collector (explain the difference between the considered ‘righteous’ Pharisee and the ‘sinner’ Tax Collector) left Justified.  V.14  “I tell you, this man went down to his house **justified**, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”  Later on in Romans 5:1-5 Paul writes:  “Therefore, since we have been **justified** by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. **2**Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. **3**Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, **4**and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, **5**and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”  We have access with the Father because in Jesus we have been considered Justified in faith. So because of that access we come in prayer – persistent and humble to receive from the Father – in all cases, suffering and joy – because of our hope.  Come and know that in all circumstances we are called to KEEP PRAYING! |
| **GOSPEL** | How does this sermon bring people to the Gospel?  In Faith in Jesus we have access to communicated with God the Father! |
| **NEXT**STEPS | Begin | Connect | Engage | Grow | Disciple  Begin – Call to start this journey with God in prayer right now!  Connect –  Grow – Challenge to pray leading up to Easter  Disciple – |