

Tuesday Bible Study: Two Parables in Luke 18 about Prayers

Dingmans Ferry UMC (Pastor Sung)

1. Opening Prayer

2. Intro: The Community of Luke: Little Flock (Luke 12:32 and Acts 20:28)

- ✓ The community might have had sufferings (Luke 11:49, 21:12, and Acts 14:22)
- ✓ This community might have taken prayer seriously
Jesus Praying in Luke (3:21-22, 6:12-16, 9:18-22, 9:28-36, 11:1-4, 22:31-32, 23:34 and 46)
Prayers are uniquely mentioned in the beginning (1:10, 42-45, 46-55, 68-79, 2:14, 29-32)
- ✓ The word usage
To pray / prayer (*proseuchomai* / *proseuche*): 47 times in Luke,
17 in Matthew, 12 in Mark and 0 in John
- ✓ To request / request (*deomai* / *deesis*): 6 times in Luke and 0 in other Gospels

3. Let us read Luke 18:1-8

- a. Do you see any surprise in this parable?
- b. What did the widow want? Justice or vengeance?
- c. Let us imagine why the judge is unjust.
- d. The Bible sometimes describes God as the God of vengeance (Isaiah 34:8, 59:17-18, Revelation 6:10 and 19:2), do you think that the audience might have seen the relation between such descriptions on God and the request of the widow in this parable?
- e. Why do you think the judge refused the request in the beginning?
- f. Verse 5 uses the Greek Word, *hypōpiazō*, which means to beat black and blue (like a boxer), or metaphorically to give humiliation and to give one intolerable annoyance. NIV translates it as to wear out. How shall we understand this word? Or what would be the reason for the judge changed his mind?
- g. In Greet text, uniquely, faith (in verse 8) comes with the definite article, *ho*. Why do you think it comes with the definite article? What is the faith that this story tells?
- h. What is the main point of this parable?

4. Let us read Luke 18:9-14

- a. Do you see any surprise in this parable?
- b. What's the difference between the Pharisee and the tax collector?
- c. Who would be the audience of this parable? Read verse 9.
- d. How does your bible translate the first phrase in verse 11? What does it imply?
- e. What's the main point of this parable?
- f. Can you relate these two parables in Luke 18?

5. Closing Prayer