

# the Royal

## MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE

**"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Pet. 2:9**

### **Week 25 Twist and Turns, Chapter 3**

This week we wrap up the three part of the "Twist and Turns" of the Royal. This is going to be the emphasis on how the parables directly affect the disciples. The following are some points to focus on in the discussion.

1. Review the Parable Observations as listed in the lesson plan.
2. Review the parable of the sower in Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23 as taught by Pastor Miles on Sunday.
3. In the "Read, Reflect, and Respond" section discuss the parable of the persistent widow in Luke 18:1-8.
4. The main area of focus should be on the attribute of God as One that is in constant provision for us and will provide justice for those whom He loves, and likewise loves Him.

This is the last week of the parables, so if you have extra time to look at some other parables, I want to encourage in doing so. It is interesting to always see the angles that Jesus uses to deliver biblical truth to those that otherwise would have no clue.

Isn't it fun studying Scripture!!!!

In Him,

Rock Church Small Group Team

## **Part 1: Opening/Recap Weekly Challenge/Small Group Sermon Discussion**

### **Opening**

- Open in Prayer
- Worship (optional)
- Recap Week 24 Homework
- Small Group Sermon Discussion

### **Recap Week 24 Weekly Challenge**

- 1. Recite Luke 12:15.**
2. Discuss experiences practicing them Study.

### **Small Group Sermon Discussion**

- 1. Review the Parable Observations of “Twist and Turns” as a group.**
  1. A parable uses everyday experiences to draw comparison with kingdom truths.
  2. Parables were spoken to three groups.
    - Crowds
    - Scribes and Pharisees
    - Disciples
  3. Parables communicate kingdom of God principles and require kingdom of God responses.
  4. Parables twist your mind with the intent to turn your heart/actions.
    - Parables demand the reader make a decision and do something different.
    - Parables weren't as difficult to understand as they were to obey.
    - Pharisees understood them but their hard hearts prevented them from obeying.
  5. The effect of the parable was determined by the heart of the hearer.
    - The hardhearted were twisted but not turned, thus were offended.
    - The spiritually hungry were twisted and turned, thus grew closer to God.
    - Parables 'call out' the proud and 'call up' the humble.
  6. Only acceptance of the kingdom of God and Jesus' authority can unlock the power of the parables.
- 2. Review the sermon through Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23 as a group.**

## Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Luke 18:1-8

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

This portion of Luke is at the very heart of the gospel of Luke. Jesus is speaking to His disciples about many different topics varying from divorce (ch. 16), to temptations resulting in sin (ch. 17), and even dealing with this radical concept of faith and how that is the only access to the kingdom of God. By the time we get to chapter 18 Jesus delivers a parable that shows the mercy, justice, and sovereignty of a loving God. Below is the context very simply broken down:

#### **Luke 18:1-8 The Parable of the Persistent Widow**

- ▶ The parable starts by explaining about a cruel unjust judge in a certain town, that clearly doesn't love God, and doesn't like the men in whom they judge.
- ▶ However, there was a poor widow that kept bothering the judge every day, seeking justice her adversary.
- ▶ Because the judge had no respect for man, he kept ignoring it, but after time, he realized if he answered her request she would stop bothering him.
- ▶ Verse 6, Jesus gets the disciples attention and basically states, "Do you hear this response, from an unjust judge?" This is not the attributes of our holy God, because our God answers the cry of the elect, or His prized people.
- ▶ The main difference is the love and value that God has placed upon His people, as opposed to earthly kings and judges.
  
- ▶ Read Luke 18:1-8 as a group.

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

#### **1. What attribute(s) of God is this passage dealing with?**

- ▶ Attributes describe any nature, promise, or characteristics of God.

#### **2. Why would this attribute referenced by the parable of the persistent widow be important to Jesus' audience right now?**

- ▶ Refer to Luke 6:17-26; Matt. 5:1-12

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

#### **1. Describe a time, or multiple times, that you have seen the justice or provision of God active in your life because of your faith.**

- ▶ Have everyone share of possible. This would be a great way for everybody to share their testimony. If they do, try to have them highlight God's sovereign mercy and saving grace rather than focusing only on their past.

## Part 3: Weekly Challenge

- ▶ **Scripture Reading Guide:** Go through the devotions that correspond with each day. These are given to everyone in their lesson plan every week. (November 1 – November 7)
- ▶ **Scripture Memory:** “And He said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” **Luke 12:15 (ESV)**
- ▶ **Bible Study Tool:** Navigate through [www.blueletterbible.com](http://www.blueletterbible.com) and discover the great resources available for free for your personal gain.
- ▶ **Spiritual Formation Practice:** Each week we will introduce a “spiritual discipline” that each person can try to adapt to their personal devotion. This week is the **Discipline of Study.**

The discipline of study has been repeated week after week because in order to understand anything in its entirety, the discipline of pursuing it has to become an essential habit. Scripture is no different, and studying the various parables is even more crucial to study. Author’s intent of writing a historic document is always hard to grasp, but is possible to get to a clear understanding of.

So for the “Twist and Turns” and even to the end of the Royal series, we are going to really focus on study. We really want to challenge you to grow in the study and knowledge of the Word, so we can grow closer to Him.