

THE PARABLES OF Jesus

“Will He Find Faith on Earth?”

Lesson 12

Throughout our last lesson, we heard Jesus emphasize in a variety of ways, “the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (Matt 24:44). It’s no surprise that the question at the forefront of many hearers’ minds would be, “**When?**” And so, in Luke 17:20-21...

“The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”

As Jesus goes on to describe the very difficult days ahead and the eventual destruction of Jerusalem, the disciples ask, “**Where, Lord?**” Jesus’ response? “**Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather**” (17:37). But what can be said after such frightening, difficult news? What did Jesus’ disciples need to hear *next*?



And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself,

‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” (18:1-8)



The Son of Man is coming at an hour no one expects. When he comes, the “time to decide” will have passed. The only question still left to answer? Will he find faith? In me? What’s that going to look like? Maybe it reminds you of the parable Jesus told at the very end of his most famous sermon (Matt 7:24-27). **Let’s talk about it...**



For Class & Family Discussion:

Let's go back to [Luke 17](#) and listen in as the Pharisees ask Jesus when the kingdom of God would come. What does Jesus mean by his response in [17:20-21](#)? How is the kingdom of God different from all other kingdoms?

Why would Jesus describe Jerusalem as a "corpse" where the "vultures" would eventually gather ([17:37](#))?

It's hard to imagine how devastating the destruction of the temple (and the altar, the sacrificial system, the genealogical records, etc.) was for so many Jews in 70 A.D. But as sad and tragic as it eventually was, could the Romans destroy the kingdom of heaven? If not, why not?

Why do you think Jesus followed up this very bad news the way that he did in [Luke 18:1](#)?

What does it mean to "lose heart," and how does Jesus help us *avoid* losing heart?

What do we need to understand and remember from Jesus' parable in [18:2-8](#)?

"When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" What will that faith look like? What does it take? Will it be worth it? Isn't that how Jesus concluded his sermon on the mount? Let's take a look at [Matthew 7:13-27](#). What stands out to you? How does Jesus' conclusion relate to what we saw in [Luke 17-18](#)?