

DON'T CARRY WHAT GOD CAN HANDLE

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Jesus teaches us to approach God with persistence, humility, and dependence. Prayer is God's invitation to give Him the burdens we were never meant to carry.

INTRODUCTION

Share about a time when you or someone else were denied access. What kind of feelings did it evoke?

As children of God, what kind of access do we have to approach God (Hebrews 10:19)?

UNDERSTANDING

READ LUKE 18:1-8

We need to be persistent in prayer. Why might we lose heart if we don't pray (v.1)?

How is God different from the judge in this parable (v.7)?

Pastor Greg explained, "The widowed woman had persistence and a just cause, and that was enough." What do we have that is far greater?

READ LUKE 18:9-14

Things are not always as they appear—we look on the outside, but God looks on the inside (1 Samuel 16:7). Why is our attitude so important in prayer?

What are the similarities and differences between the Pharisee and the tax collector?

How does the context of this parable emphasize its main point (v.9, 14)? How can we guard against our own self-righteousness, especially if our reaction to this parable is, “God, I thank you I’m not like that Pharisee”?

READ LUKE 18:15-17

What does it mean to have a *childlike* faith? How is this different from being *childish*?

Why is it necessary to receive the kingdom of God like a child? How might people try to receive it otherwise?

How does being a child of God impact the way we pray (Matthew 7:7-11; Romans 8:15)?

APPLICATION

How do the three approaches of the widow, the sinner, and the child reveal the way that God sees things differently than we do?

Are you carrying something that only God can handle? How do these truths impact the way you give your burdens to God: that He cares about your problem, is bigger than your problem, and has perfect timing (1 Peter 5:7; Philippians 4:6-7)?

Pastor Greg said, “Prayer is the Christian’s secret weapon.” How have you seen this to be true in your life? How would you like to grow in prayer—in persistence, humility, and dependence?

PRAYER

Give thanks that your Father in Heaven invites you to give your burdens to Him, and that He can handle them. Like the widow, pray with persistence. Like the tax collector, pray with humility. Like the little children, pray with dependence.