

INTO THE MARGINS THE PARABLES OF LUKE

The Judge & The Widow Luke 18:1-8 | Pastor Alf Halvorson

Like our parable from last week, today's parable is also only found in Luke's Gospel. It has an introduction and a conclusion, which not all parables contain. And, it has a different context than the focus on riches, possessions, and mammon that we have been working with in Luke 14-17. The context appears to be "when will the kingdom of God come?" Or, "what is our responsibility regarding the Second Coming of Christ?"

1. *Read Luke 17:20-37 and Luke 18:8.* Who asked the question about "when will the Kingdom of God come?" What was Jesus' answer in verses 20-37, in Luke 17?
2. According to Luke 18:1, what is Luke's explanation for why Jesus told this parable? What has been your experience with praying? Is it easy or hard? Why or why not? In what areas are you tempted to give up or lose heart? Is God's second coming one of those areas where you are tempted to give up?
3. *Read Luke 18:2-3.* What do we learn about this judge? What do we gather about this widow? Do you know someone like this judge and/or this widow?
4. *Read verses 4-8.* In Luke 11:5-13, God is "so much more" than an earthly parent in trying to meet the requests of children. This is also a 'how much more is God' parable. How is God like and unlike the judge? How is God portrayed here? What might we learn about God's character and goal regarding justice?
5. This parable also seems to teach us things about the nature of prayer and the topic of persistence. What are your takeaways on these two subjects? What is the consequence if we don't pray and aren't persistent? How is "the Son of Man finding faith on earth" in vs. 8 tied to our perseverance and prayerfulness?
6. As for prayer, and for trusting in God's justice, are you more likely to give up or hang tough? How might this parable help you in your faithfulness moving forward? Can the group pray for you regarding any particular place of injustice, suffering, or weariness?

Have a great Thanksgiving full of good food, family-time, and gratitude for God's goodness in the past, present, and future!



Pastoral Team

Dan Aikins

Assistant Pastor, Alpha Hub Director

Clay Brown

Equipping Pastor

Beth Case

Caring Ministries Pastor

Mauricio Chacón

Spanish Language Pastor

Almir Dias

Portuguese Language Pastor

Alf Halvorson

Senior Pastor

Brett Hurst

Relationships Pastor

Rachel Poysky

Children's Pastor

Dave Steane

Executive Pastor

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Contact Us

Website: mdpc.org

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Prayer Chain: 713-953-2558

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Vimeo: vimeo.mdpc.org

MDPC App

For a quick download link for Apple and

Android, text "APP" to 832-742-1832.

Congregational Updates:

Virginia Huckeba passed away November

11, 2019; **Charles Almond** passed away

Nov 16, 2019; **Stanley McLaughlin** passed

away Mar 18, 2019

MDPC Worship

8:30 AM • 9:45 AM • 11:15 AM (English &

Spanish) • 6:00 PM (Portuguese Language)

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

AN ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

From the Gospel of Luke
Written by Rev. Dr. Clay Brown

Download at adventdevo.mdpc.org. Paper copies are located around the church.

WEEKLY MINISTRY PARTNER PRAYER FOCUS

Star of Hope Mission, Cornerstone Community A Christian women and family development center with a continuum of care including crisis services through intensive programs that offer hope, stability, and personal development. Positive life changes are encouraged through programs for spiritual growth, employment, and recovery from substance abuse. sohmission.org

Stoney Creek Ranch Stoney Creek Ranch helps young people come to know Christ and His role in their lives, and to develop an authentic personal relationship with Him.

It works closely with churches and organizations that support urban youth. These young people visit Stoney Creek for a life-changing camping adventure in the great outdoors. stoneycreekranch.org

Far East Broadcasting Company Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC) seeks to make Jesus known among the least-reached people of the world by sharing the Good News through various media methods. They broadcast in more than 100 languages in 49 countries. For over 70 years, FEBC has been focusing on meeting the spiritual needs of their listeners and inspiring them to follow Jesus Christ. febc.org

Generosity Matters. On **Sunday, November 3**, we made our 2020 financial pledges to God. If you've not yet pledged, you can still do so online at pledge.mdpc.org, or by using the Covenant Cards found in the pews. Also, please keep year-end giving in mind as we strive to meet our 2019 budget obligations. **Online giving is available at giving.mdpc.org.**

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

as of 11/17/19

2019 Annual Budget	\$ 12,240,000
Actual Income to Date	\$ 8,192,452
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 4,047,548

Sunday, November 24, 2019



INTO THE MARGINS THE PARABLES OF LUKE

The Judge and the Widow
Luke 18:1-8 • Alf Halvorson preaching

The Judge and The Widow

¹ Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' ⁴ "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!' ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

8:30 AM BLENDED & 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

PRaise & WORSHIP • CONFESSION • MESSAGE • OFFERING

Musicians in these services: Meliza Gómez and Michael Middleton, worship leaders
Daniel Amaya, bass • George Heathco, guitar • Daniel Martinez, keys • Asher Pudlo, drums

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL MUSIC

PRELUDE	<i>Now Thank We All Our God</i>	Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)
CHORAL INTROIT	<i>For the Beauty of the Earth</i>	John Rutter (b. 1945)
*HYMN OF PRAISE #559	<i>We Gather Together</i> , verses 1, 2, & 3	KREMSEr
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	<i>The Gloria Patri</i>	Hymn #579
ANTHEM	<i>Glorious Everlasting</i>	M. Thomas Cousins (1914-1972)
OFFERTORY	<i>I Want Jesus to Walk with Me</i>	arr. Moses Hogan (1957-2003)
*HYMN OF RESPONSE #551	<i>Come, Ye Thankful People, Come</i> , verses 1 & 4	ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR
POSTLUDE	<i>Crown Imperial March</i>	Sir William Walton (1902-1983)

Musicians: Jason Amos, soloist; Sanctuary Choir; Kathryn White, organ; Charles Hausmann, conductor

* Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

BLESS FRIDAY

BLACK FRIDAY IS ABOUT SHOPPING
BLESS FRIDAY IS ABOUT SERVING

Friday, November 29, 2019

Giving thanks for all God has blessed us with can be as simple as helping to decorate for the holidays, bagging beans and rice, or filling shoeboxes with small surprises.

Be a part of BLESS Friday this year and share God's love! Register at the link below.

blessfriday.mdpc.org



MDPC Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.
11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024 | mdpc.org | 713-782-1710



Thanksgiving

GIVING

TREATS FOR YOUR FEAST!
 TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO ORDER
TREATS.MDPC.ORG
 PUMPKIN PIE \$12 • PECAN PIE \$16
 CHOCOLATE FUDGE \$14 (WITH PECANS)
 CRANBERRY BREAD \$7 (WITH OR WITHOUT NUTS)
 CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES \$6 (HALF-DOZEN)
 PICK UP IN THE KITCHEN NOV. 26-27 • 8:00 AM-2:00 PM

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT MDPC

Everything Holiday! For a comprehensive look at MDPC's seasonal opportunities, pick up a copy of the latest FOCUS, found on bulletin boards around campus, or visit holiday.mdpc.org.

Artist Mary McJunkin's professional artwork is on display at MDPC's Community Gallery (next to The Nook). Stop by to view a wonderful celebration of God's creation.

Purchase Poinsettias for Christmas

The Christmas Poinsettias for the MDPC Chapel and Sanctuary may be purchased in honor or memory of loved ones. Visit flowers.mdpc.org, or pick up an order envelope at the Front Office or Connection Center.
Sign up through December 13
\$8.00 per dedication
flowers.mdpc.org

Merry & Bright

Join us as art meets music in a celebration of the Christmas season! This art-filled event will feature works from the students of the REACH Art Ministry classes, along with a concert featuring the Contemporary Music team. Artist Bridget Wolk will perform a live art demonstration during the concert.

Art Viewing and Appetizers:

6:15-7:00 PM • The Nook

Concert: 7:00-8:00 PM • Chapel

Dessert Reception: 8:00-9:00 PM • Parlor

We need ushers for our Christmas Eve Services (**4:00, 5:30, 7:00, & 8:30 PM**).
 Sign up: xmasushers.mdpc.org.

Christmas Caroling on the Ship Channel

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord with the Houston Seafarers. Sing Christmas carols as an outreach to those working on the ships during the holidays and far from home.
Saturdays, December 7 & 14
5:00-7:30 PM

Register by Dec 4; contact David Wells:
wells6652@msn.com or 713-443-4262.

Christmas Mythbusters

Atheists and Christians - let's discuss some common Christmas "myths." Is Christmas truly a Christian holiday? Do we really believe in a virgin birth? Those and other ideas will be explored by our panel made up equally of Christians and Atheists. Plus holiday trivia. Open to 20s & 30s.

Tuesday, December 10 • 7:00-9:00 PM
Kindred, Montrose (2515 Waugh, 77006)
\$5 Admission • Free craft beer & food
 Sarah Stone: ssone@mdpc.org

Parents, do you need a day without the kids to work on your Christmas shopping, or just to spend some quiet time with your spouse? Register for Parents Day Out.
Saturday, December 14 • 9:15 AM-3:00 PM
Cost: \$30/child • \$15/sibling • \$55/family
 Register at pno.mdpc.org.

Toy Train

MDPC Outreach Ministries is collecting gifts for the children and teens of Santa Maria Hostel and Spring Spirit, two MDPC ministry partners in the Spring Branch area. Please purchase new, unwrapped gifts for ages infant-18 years old.

Gifts will be collected through December 10.



Bless a Child this Christmas!

Visit cfk.mdpc.org for more details.

Mission Market

Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, & 22

Chapel and Sanctuary Lobbies

Give the gift of hope for Christmas this year when you purchase cards in honor of friends and loved ones. The money goes directly to an MDPC ministry partner to fund life-saving surgeries, safe and loving homes for children, life-transforming education, wheelchairs, and so much more. **Shop Mission Market on weekdays in the Front Office.**



ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES AT MDPC

Walking Through Luke

Stand-alone lessons, taught by MDPC theologians, follow the "Transformed by Hope" study. Choose 9:45 or 11:15 AM, Amphitheater.
Today: Luke 9:1-36 with Rev. Dr. Clay Brown, Equipping Pastor

The Winsome Witness Challenge • If

the idea of witnessing to others feels daunting but you want to be able to share your faith

more comfortably, join us in a Winsome Witness Challenge! Each week, we will suggest simple and practical ideas for building deeper relationships with those in your sphere. ***This week, get to know your pew neighbors. Before you leave, introduce yourself to someone sitting in the pew near you, and share what you are each looking forward to in the upcoming week.*** Remember -- ministry moves at the speed of relationships!



Women Christmas Coffee

You're Invited!

Join us for coffee, wassail, treats, and a few carols sung by the children of The Yellow School. All women are welcome!

Tuesday, December 3
 9:30-11:00 AM • MDPC Parlor

Free childcare available: childcare@mdpc.org

coffee.mdpc.org



FAMILY CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Sunday, December 8 | 4:30-6:30 PM

Dinner*, Bingo, and a Christmas Amazing Race!
 Booths for Face Painting, a Hot Chocolate Bar, Family Dress-Up Contest, a Service Project, and more!

*RSVP for dinner at festival.mdpc.org (\$8/adult • \$4/child)

Please bring a gently-used children's book to donate



Jubilate Deo

by Dan Forrest

MDPC Concert Series
 2019-2020

Sunday, December 8
6:00 PM
MDPC Sanctuary