

*Prayer*



**CONSISTENT &  
CONTRITE**

Luke 18: 1-14

# Caught not Taught

- ★ Starting a new series on Prayer
- ★ Disciples asked Jesus to teach them
  - ◆ He gave them a prayer
  - ◆ Prayer is caught rather than taught

# Caught not Taught ...

- ★ Prayer is not my strength
  - ◆ One reason I pray: I need to
  - ◆ Prayer for me is dwelling with God
  - ◆ I am not good at praying
  - ◆ Rescued from my weakness –
    - ◇ Praying prayers given to me
  - ◆ I come not as expert, but as learner

# 1. Consistent

- ★ Two parables – one positive, one negative
- ★ We are told the point up front:
  - ◆ Pray and not lose heart
- ★ A Strange parable:
  - ◆ Judge “neither fears God, nor respects man” (v 4)
  - ◆ If even an unscrupulous judge can be made to act
  - ◆ How much more will God act

# 1. Consistent ...

- ★ When the son of man comes will he find faith?
  - ◆ Always pray and not lose heart (v 1)
- ★ How do we wait for the Kingdom to come?
  - ◆ We wait in the presence of God
  - ◆ We wait with hearts crying out for justice

# 1. Consistent ...

- ✦ Will he find us consistently calling out to God?
- ✦ Be consistent in prayer –  
it is what faith looks like

## 2. Contrite

- ★ What we should not do
- ★ Point is given at the start
  - ◆ Trusted in themselves that they were righteous
- ★ Pharisees did try to live righteous lives
- ★ Tax collectors were the worst of the worst

## 2. Contrite ...

- ★ We are not compared to other people
- ★ We are compared to God's call to righteousness
  - ◆ We fall short
  - ◆ Basic attitude should be repentance & contrition
  - ◆ We are weak and fail often
  - ◆ God is gracious to forgive us



## 2. Contrite ...

- ★ God's answers not dependent on obedience
  - ◆ We don't 'earn' answers by being good

# Living It –

- ★ The struggle is doing
- ★ Prayer is dwelling with God
  - ◆ It is the essence of Christian experience
- ★ Take your cue from Jesus
  - ◆ He gave us a prayer to pray. PRAY IT.

# Living It –

- ★ J C Ryle: A Call to prayer
  - ◆ The name of Jesus is a never-failing passport
- ★ A prayer of John Wesley.