

Luke 18: The Kingdom is in front of you

1. What was the primary big idea from the sermon teaching on Luke 18?
2. What does it mean for the Kingdom of God to be “in your midst” or “within you”? How does this challenge our usual expectations of God’s presence and work?
3. Which of the “small ones” (Widow, Tax Collector, Infant, Blind Beggar) do you most relate to right now? Why?
4. Of the four contrasts in Luke 18, which of the “high-status” temptations do you recognize in yourself—doubt, pride, control, or resistance to suffering? What are the ways to identify if one is being overcome by such a vice?
5. What might “becoming small” look like practically in your daily life or ministry? Are you with or allied with people of low social status? What are you missing if you are not among, with, or for them?
6. What step of the spiritual journey—belief, repentance, trust, or following—do you sense God inviting you to grow in next?

Juxtaposition	Text	Status Comparison	Virtue (Low-Status)	Vice (High-Status)
The Widow vs. The Unjust Judge	Luke 18:1–8	Widow: poor, powerless, persistent. Judge: influential, irreverent, indifferent.	Faith and perseverance in prayer; belief in God’s justice.	Cynicism, unbelief, apathy toward justice.
The Tax Collector vs. The Pharisee	Luke 18:9–14	Tax Collector: despised sinner, humble before God. Pharisee: respected, moral, self-satisfied.	Repentance and humility.	Pride and self-righteousness.
The Infants vs. The Rich Ruler	Luke 18:15–30	Infants: helpless, trusting, fully dependent. Rich Ruler: wealthy, moral, self-reliant.	Trust, dependence, and receptivity.	Control, covetousness, and self-dependence.
The Blind Beggar vs. The Disciples	Luke 18:35–43	Blind Beggar: needy, persistent, cries for mercy. Disciples: close to Jesus yet blind to suffering.	Perseverance and willingness to follow through suffering.	Spiritual blindness, resistance to suffering, triumphalism.