

Follow Me — and I Will Make You Fishers

(A Journey Through the Gospel of Luke)

“Humble Faith”

Luke 18

July 26, 2026

Pastor David Bardowell

Big Idea

Disciple-makers grow by humbly depending on Jesus instead of themselves.

Disciple-Making Focus

The kingdom belongs to the humble.

I. Disciple-Makers _____ Jesus with _____ Persistence (vv. 1-8)

“Because this widow keeps pestering me, I will give her justice, so that she doesn’t wear me out by her persistent coming.” (Luke 18:5, CSB)

Key Truth:

Disciple-makers never outgrow their dependence on God.

II. Disciple-Makers _____ Jesus with _____ Repentance (vv. 9-17)

“God, have mercy on me, a sinner!” (Luke 18:13)

“Let the little children come to me, and don’t stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” (Luke 18:16, CSB)

Key Truth:

The Kingdom is received, not earned.

III. Disciple-Makers _____ Jesus with _____ Surrender (vv. 18-43)

“You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” (Luke 18:22, NIV)

“What is impossible with man is possible with God.” (Luke 18:27)

“I assure you that everyone who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the Kingdom of God, will be repaid many times over in this life, and in the age to come eternal life.” (Luke 18:29–30, NLT/NIV)

Key Truth:

Disciple-makers surrender everything because Jesus is worth everything.

Pastor David Bardowell, Senior Pastor
PastorDavid@TheGateOC.com
Info@TheGateOC.com

Small Group Questions — Week 21

Follow Me — and I Will Make You Fishers

Week 21: Humble Faith

Text: Luke 18

Start Here — Reflective Question

Can you think of a time when you realized you couldn't solve a problem on your own and had to completely depend on God? What happened?

Read the Passage

Have someone read Luke 18 aloud before discussion.

Discussion Questions

1. Humble Persistence — Luke 18:1–8

Jesus tells the parable of the persistent widow to teach His disciples that they should always pray and never give up.

- Why do you think Jesus connects persistent prayer with faith?
- What does the widow's persistence teach us about depending on God?
- Why is prayer often one of the first things we neglect when we begin relying on ourselves?
- How have you experienced God strengthening your faith through persistent prayer?

The sermon said: *"Prayer is one of the clearest signs of humility."*

- In what ways does your prayer life reveal whether you're depending on yourself or on God?

2. Humble Repentance — Luke 18:9–17

Jesus contrasts the Pharisee and the tax collector before welcoming little children into His presence.

- What attitudes separated the Pharisee from the tax collector?
- Why did Jesus say the tax collector—not the Pharisee—went home justified?
- What does Jesus' invitation to the little children teach us about entering God's Kingdom?
- Why is it so difficult for people to admit their need for God's grace?

The sermon said: *"The Kingdom is received, not earned."*

- Are there areas where you find yourself trying to earn God's approval instead of simply receiving His grace?

3. Humble Surrender — Luke 18:18–43

Jesus challenges the rich ruler, predicts His death, and heals a blind beggar who cries out for mercy.

- Why was the rich ruler unwilling to follow Jesus?
- What does the contrast between the rich ruler and the blind beggar teach us about genuine faith?
- Jesus said, "What is impossible with man is possible with God." How have you seen God do what you could not accomplish on your own?
- Is there something in your life that Jesus may be asking you to surrender more fully?

The sermon said: *"The greatest obstacle to following Jesus isn't what we lack—it's what we're unwilling to surrender."*

- What would complete surrender look like for you this week?

Disciple-Making Connection

The Disciple-Making Focus this week was: **"The kingdom belongs to the humble."**

- How does humility make someone more effective as a disciple-maker?
- Who in your life needs to experience the grace and mercy you've received from Christ?
- How can approaching people with humility open doors for meaningful spiritual conversations?
- How can this group pray for you as you seek to depend more fully on Jesus this week?

Close Together

Spend time praying together. Pray that God would:

- Deepen your dependence on Him through prayer.
- Give you a humble heart that quickly repents and receives His grace.
- Reveal anything you're holding onto more tightly than Jesus.
- Help you surrender every area of your life to His lordship.
- Give you opportunities this week to demonstrate the humility and grace of Christ as you make disciples.

Weekly Challenge

Each morning this week, pray:

"Father, help me depend on You today instead of myself. Give me a humble heart that receives Your grace, trusts Your wisdom, and willingly surrenders to Your will. Show me one person I can encourage or point toward Jesus this week."

Then intentionally practice one act of humility each day—whether by spending time in prayer, confessing a sin, serving someone without recognition, asking forgiveness, or beginning a spiritual conversation with someone who needs to experience the grace of Christ.