

# THE STORYTELLER

## Week 8: How Should We Pray?

### **Sermon Series:**

For 13 weeks, we are going to unpack the parables of Jesus, investigating the parables from the Gospel of Matthew and Luke.

Last week, Jeff defined a parable as a story that explains our reality giving a new or greater understanding of the world around us. Specifically, concerning God and our relationship with God. Key to parables is their depth and layers, they are stories that come alongside our own circumstances.

As we go through this series remember Jeff's 4 steps to consider: 1. What is the context in which the parable is told? 2. What are the indispensable plot elements? 3. What was the meaning at that moment, in that setting? 4. How does that meaning adapt to our cultural setting today?

The purpose of this sermon series is to draw us in, pique our curiosity, and sit with Jesus. You are invited to pull up a chair ask questions, be confused, wonder, and listen to the parable of Jesus.

### **Message Focus:**

#### ***Parallel Economics***

The Passages: Luke 11:1-13 & 18:1-8

### **The Framework Breakdown:**

- 1.) The focus for this Sunday is prayer, but I want to unpack the relationships between friends. First, reread Luke 11:1-8. Have you ever identified with the friend in need of another friend's help? Share your circumstance. Second, have you ever identified with the friend being asked for help (see v.7)? Why, what was happening, and what was being asked? What characterizes a good friend? Who are your good friends (don't use family members)? How does this parable build on friendship, and what kind of friend do we have in Jesus?
- 2.) This leads us to prayer... from Scripture, is God like the sleeping neighbor, why or why not? Is God like the unjust judge, why or why not? How does our understanding of "who God is" impact our practice of prayer? What is your expectation from prayer? How have you discerned God's response to prayer in the past? What are some of the prayers you continually bring to God, and why? What have you discerned from God in the process?
- 3.) What is bold prayer? What does prayer for justice sound like? What kind of justice do you pray for? What kind of boldness do we pray with? What kind of needs do we pray for? In our cultural context, prayer is often associated with healing and sickness, why? How does the context of these prayers influence our own understanding of prayer (i.e. one's concern for hospitality, and the other for justice)? How might these parables influence your practice of prayer moving forward?