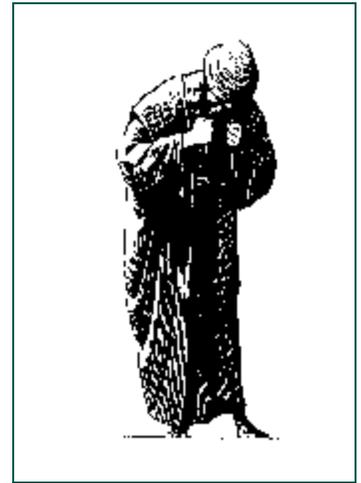


Pharisee & Publican

Luke 18

How would you feel if a homeless person or a drug addict came into your church on a Sunday morning and sat next to you? Would you feel like moving to different place, or would you be glad that he/she had come to your church? Sometimes Christians feel that they are better than other people.

Today we will hear a parable in which Jesus showed the Pharisees that they could not be saved by the outwardly good lives they lived. True righteousness comes only through faith in Jesus and His death which paid for our sins.



Prayer

Just as I am without one plea but that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
Just as I am and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come. Amen

The Pharisee and the Publican Luke 18: 9 -14

Luke 18:9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: {10} "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. {11} "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men; extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. {12} 'I fast twice a week; I

give tithes of all that I possess.'

{13} "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'

{14} "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the blank with the correct word.

1. Jesus told this parable to _____ people.
(righteous, poor, self-righteous)



2. Most people thought the Pharisees were _____ people.
(God-fearing, wicked, humble)

3. Most people thought that all tax collectors were _____.
(honest, wicked, good)

4. In his prayer, the Pharisee asked God for _____.
(mercy, forgiveness, nothing)

5. The Pharisee fasted twice a _____.
(week, month, year)

Outer Aim - The Pharisee trusted in himself. The Publican looked to Jesus for salvation.

What God's Word Tells Us - Use your Bible to answer the following.

1. What does the Bible say to people like the Pharisees and even some Christians who are proud of their works? *James 4:6b*.

2. Which of the following Bible passages describes people like the tax collector? Explain your choice.

Matthew 5:6 *Proverbs 10:14* *Psalms 51:17* *Romans 2:11*

3. Which of the following Bible passages expresses the same thought as the last few words of the parable - Luke 18:14b? Defend your choice.

1 Peter 5:5b *Proverbs 16:8* *Matthew 5:8*

Inner Aim - Believers rely only on Jesus for salvation.

Your Turn

Why do you think the Pharisee did even more that God had commanded?

What did the Pharisee think of himself in comparison with others such as the tax collector?

How did the tax collector show that he knew he was a sinner? Name three things that he did.

On what did the tax collector base his hope of forgiveness?

_____ his good works _____ the mercy of God _____ his humility

Passages

1 John 1:8 - If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Psalm 51:17 - The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart - these, O God, You will not despise.

Romans 3:23 -24 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Hymn - TLH #370

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.
On Christ the solid Rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, teach us to be humble and aware of our sinfulness and need of a Savior just like the tax collector. Keep us from trusting in ourselves and help us to look to You for forgiveness and salvation. Every day we need to come to You and say, "Lord be merciful to me a sinner." Amen