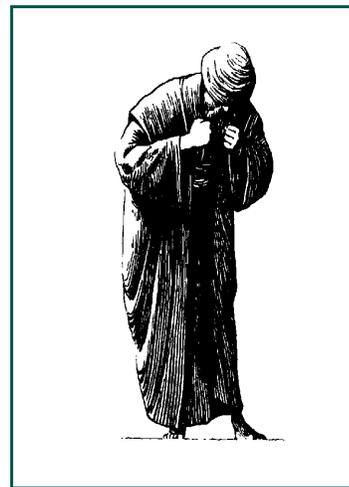


Pharisee & Publican

Luke 18:9-15

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."

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



What the Story Tells Us - Complete the sentences. Place an X in front of the best ending for each sentence.

1. The Pharisee was ...
 - a. _____ better than other people.
 - b. _____ merciful to the tax collector.
 - c. _____ a sinner.
2. The Pharisee told God ...
 - a. _____ about the good things he did.
 - b. _____ about his sin.
 - c. _____ about how good the tax collector was.
3. The tax collector asked God to ...
 - a. _____ notice how good he was.
 - b. _____ take away his sins.
 - c. _____ punish him for his sins.
4. The man who was forgiven was ...
 - a. _____ the Pharisee.
 - b. _____ the tax collector.
5. The Pharisee was as sinful as the tax collector because ...
 - a. _____ all people are sinful in their hearts.
 - b. _____ he did not go to the temple.
 - c. _____ he prayed too loudly.
6. God wants us to ...
 - a. _____ confess our sins.
 - b. _____ make believe that we have no sins.
 - c. _____ tell Him that we are better than most people.
7. When we have done something wrong, God wants us to ...
 - a. _____ run away.
 - b. _____ say that someone else did it.
 - c. _____ ask for forgiveness.
8. Our sins are taken away ...
 - a. _____ by what we do.
 - b. _____ by what Jesus did for us.
 - c. _____ by waiting until people forgive us.

Passages

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

Psalms 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