



STORY

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican - Luke 18:9-14

1/8/04

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Father in heaven, help me to make clear to the children the need to turn their eyes and thoughts ever away from their deeds and works to the life, death and resurrection of their Savior, Jesus Christ. May they ever pray, "Lord, be merciful to me a sinner," so that in Jesus' life and death they stand justified before Thee. Amen.

VOCABULARY

extortioners - those who use their position of power to take money or goods from others

fast - to go without food

tithe - to give a tenth or portion of one's goods

smote - strike

justified - to be declared just or righteous

exalteth - build up in honor

abased - humbled, brought down

OUTER AIM

To show the difference between those who trust in themselves and those who look to the Savior.

INNER AIM

To lead the children to despair of their own works and to rely completely on Jesus for salvation.

BACKGROUND *Rupprecht Bible History References, Vol. 2, pp. 276 ff.*

The Pharisees and the Publicans were very much a part of the scene when Jesus lived on earth. The Pharisees were highly respected by the populace and the Publicans were greatly despised. The Old Testament laws were the object of the Pharisees' teachings. They stressed outward obedience to these laws. They made a great show of keeping them. It was taught by them that the fulfilling of the Law would open heaven's doors for them. This stress on works is very much a part of the religious scene in our day also. It is very much a part of human thinking-to get something, I have to give something. We find it taught in the lodges, scouting, and even in many of the organized Christian church bodies. Salvation by works is proclaimed boldly and openly. This parable should shed God's light on all who attempt to get to heaven by their works.

vs. 9-10 Pharisee - promulgator of salvation by one's works

Publican - a tax collector for the Roman government. They were despised for serving the Roman government as well as for collecting more than they should have. They were looked upon as being thieves.

vs. 11 a prayer exalting one's own deeds

vs. 12 fast twice a week-more than was required

tithes of all-tithing was required on only certain items

vs. 13 publican does not boast—knows himself to be a sinner, with eyes cast down, and striking his breast in humility, he pleads for mercy. . . ”just as I am without one plea but that Thy blood was shed for me . . .”

vs. 14 Jesus looks at the two and makes it clear that the publican was declared just, righteous, by God “went down to his house justified.” While the pharisee was turned away.

STUDENT PRAYER - TLH 388 vs. 1 and 5

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, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

PRESENTATION

Briefly review previous story as time allows. Make links to the new story when possible. Tell the story: Teachers, be encouraged to tell the story in your own words while remaining faithful to the scriptural account. When scripture records the story in more than one place, you may want to harmonize the accounts (including extra details found in each account). Let the students know where they can find the additional details in the Bible.

Discuss the story: While reviewing the major events of the story, discuss the possible applications to the students’ lives. Ask questions that help make them think about the story and show that they understand the story.

APPLICATION

- When coming into God’s presence in prayer, don’t boast of your deeds.
- When coming into God’s presence in prayer, make Jesus your claim to glory, “In the cross of Christ I glory ...”
- Beware of teachers and organizations that would lead you to exalt yourself.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Psalms 51:9 - "Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities."

Psalms 50:15 - "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

Middle

Psalms 51:9 - "Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities."

Psalms 50:15 - "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

Psalms 51:17 - "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise."

Upper

Psalms 51:9 - "Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities."

Psalms 50:15 - "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

Psalms 51:17 - "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise."

Luke 14:11 - "For whoever exalts himself shall be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

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 CHOICES

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less - TLH #370

Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness - TLH #371

Just as I Am, without One Plea - TLH #388