

Pharisee & Publican

Luke 18:9-14



The Story

When Jesus lived on this earth, He used special stories to teach people certain truths about the kingdom of God. Jesus used examples from everyday life in these stories which are called parables.

One day Jesus told a parable to warn the Pharisees that they couldn't be saved by doing good things for God. The Pharisees were a group of people who were very proud. They thought they were better than other people. They also thought that they didn't need a Savior.

This is Jesus' parable: There were two men who went to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who thought that he kept God's law. The other man was a publican or a tax collector. In those days many tax collectors cheated people by collecting too much money from them. They were hated by most people.

The Pharisee stood where everyone could see him when he prayed. He thanked God that he wasn't like other men who did sinful things like lying and stealing. He also thanked God that he wasn't like the

tax collector. Then he told God about all the good things he did. He fasted or went without food twice a week and gave a lot of money to the church. He didn't ask God to forgive his sins because he didn't think he had sinned.

The tax collector realized that he was sinful. He was ashamed of the things he had done. He stood way off in a corner and hung his head in shame. He prayed, "Lord be merciful to me, a sinner."

After Jesus had told this parable, He said, " Now I tell you, this man (the tax collector) went home with his sins forgiven. For everyone who brags about himself before God will be humbled or brought down, but whoever humbles himself and admits his sinfulness will be lifted up or honored by God."

In this parable, Jesus wants to teach us that we are all sinful and not better than other people. We can not do anything to earn forgiveness or salvation. It is only through Jesus' death that we can be saved.

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

Believers rely only on Jesus for salvation.

Activity One - When we pray, Jesus wants us to come to Him with a heart that is humble and not proud. We ask Jesus to create in us a clean heart. That means we want Him to forgive our sins and help us to live as His children.

Color this spiral heart and cut on the dotted lines. Tie a string through the hole in the middle of the small heart. It can be hung from your ceiling to remind you of Jesus' love for you.



Activity Two - Find the letter that goes with the number below each blank, and you will have the words that we should pray. Use the code in the box.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	I	L	M	N	O	R	S	T	U	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
7	12	4				2	5		10	5	13	3	8	6	16	9
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
15	12		10	12		1			14	8	11	11	5	13		

Passages

Luke 18:13b - God be merciful to me a sinner!

Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Hymn - WS #709 v. 1, 3, 4

God loves me dearly, grants me salvation;
 God loves me dearly, loves even me.
 Therefore I'll say again:
 God loves me dearly,
 God loves me dearly, loves even me.

He sent forth Jesus, my dear Redeemer;
 He sent forth Jesus and set me free.
 Therefore...

Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;
 Jesus, my Savior, paid all I owed.
 Therefore...

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, keep us from being proud like the Pharisee. We sin every day and need your forgiveness just like the tax collector. Make us realize that it was our sins that caused Jesus' suffering and death. Please forgive all our sins for Jesus' sake. Amen.