



“Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector”

Luke 18:9-14

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What does it take to suffer a crushing defeat and still be classy?

Two Men (v. 9-10)

Pharisee:

- They were _____ and despised others. (v.9)
- They were a strict legalistic religious party, known for their observance of the Law and outward piety.
- “Pharisee” means “separated one”
- Their emphasis on the Law led to an overemphasis on the _____ instead of the _____.
 - o Matt. 23:27-28; Matt. 6:2; Matt. 6:5

APPLICATION: We all have a little bit of Pharisee in us...

Tax Collector:

- They were Jews that collected taxes for Rome. They were considered _____ and liars.
- They were excluded from the Synagogue fellowship and considered the _____ of sinners.

APPLICATION: Who in this parable do you most identify with?

Two Prayers (v. 11-13)

How did the Pharisee pray?

- **His posture** painted a picture of a self-righteous man standing loud and proud, front and center. His entire posture signifies _____ and self-righteousness.
- **His prayer** was all about _____.

How did the Tax Collector Pray?

- **His posture** painted a picture of a humble man standing toward the back, not feeling worthy. His entire posture signifies _____ and brokenness.
- **His prayer** was a humble plea for _____ and forgiveness.
- “*be merciful*” is the verb form of the word for “mercy seat.” What was the mercy seat and its significance? (Ex. 25:20-22; Lev. 16)
- How did Jesus teach us to pray? (Matt. 6:9-11)
 - o Real prayer is _____ - centered, not _____ - centered.

APPLICATION: How is your prayer life? What is your prayer posture?

Two Results (v. 14)

The Primary Lesson:

- _____ is a legal term that means to declare someone just or righteous. To be justified meant to be declared right before God.
- The Pharisees _____ themselves. (Luke 16:14-15)
- The Doctrine of “Justification by Faith” addresses whether someone is justified by grace or works. The Pharisee thought his good deeds would justify him, while the Tax Collector knew he needed God’s mercy.
 - o Rom. 3:23-24; 5:8; Eph. 2:8-9, Gal. 3:11; 2:16; 2:21

The Secondary Lesson:

- _____ is what God requires. (Jm. 4:6-10; I Pet. 5:5)

APPLICATION: Are you self-justified or humble?

Five practical ways to keep your pride in check:

- _____ about it.
- Be Thankful.
- _____.
- Humbly ask for feedback.
- _____ more, _____ about yourself less.

We all need to pray that simple prayer –
“God be merciful to me a sinner.”

NEXT STEPS?