

THE PARABLE OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

LUKE 18:9-14



WHY THIS PARABLE?

Jesus said for two reasons:

1. People are tempted to trust in themselves that we are righteous.
 - For those who feel they have no spiritual needs. Revelation 3:17
 - Don't want to be the one with needs. Matthew 9:12
 - Whose righteousness? Romans 3:23; Philippians 3:8-9; 2 Corinthians 1:8-9; Ezekiel 33:13
2. People are tempted to view others with contempt.
 - To continually regard as nothing; of no account. Look down upon. 1 Corinthians 4:6-7; Philippians 2:3-5

THE DANGER OF WRONG COMPARISONS

Who do we compare ourselves to?

- Other people? 2 Corinthians 10:12
- The Pharisee found someone to compare himself he knew was "more" sinful.
 - "I'm not as bad as ..."
- Or, Jesus Christ? Ephesians 4:13; 2 Corinthians 13:15

THE DANGER OF FOCUSING ON THE EXTERNAL RATHER THAN THE INTERNAL

- The Pharisee looked at things outwardly.
- God looks at things inwardly
(1 Samuel 9:2; 10:23 versus 1 Samuel 16:6-7)
- Can we learn to see as God sees? 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 2 Corinthians 10:7; James 2:2-4
- Will we have the right mindset? Romans 8:5-8; Colossians 3:1-2; 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:2

THE DANGER OF FALSE STANDARDS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

- The Pharisee had his list of what was important. He had created his own standard – which wasn't God's.
- Superficial righteousness – Matthew 6:1; 5:20
- Deception of partial obedience – Matthew 23:23
- What standard will we come up with? Romans 10:1-3; Philippians 3:8-9
- What can we afford to leave out? Acts 20:27; Jeremiah 26:2

THE DANGER OF PRIDE AND THE LACK OF HUMILITY

- Compare the words (and heart) of the Publican and the Pharisee.
- Humility is commanded before God (James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:6) and others (1 Peter 3:8).
- It's man's undoing! Proverbs 16:18; 2 Chronicles 26:16; 32:25

THE DANGER OF DENYING SIN

- Humility comes from confession and acknowledgement.
- What did the Publican and the Pharisee have in common? Both were sinners! Who acknowledged and confessed that? Psalms 32:5; Jeremiah 3:12-13; Hosea 5:15
- God demands, desires, and deserves our acknowledgment and confession of sin. Proverbs 28:13; Psalms 51:1-4; Leviticus 26:40-41

THE DANGER OF INDIFFERENCE OVER SIN

- Contrast of the Publican and the Pharisee – *“unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast.”*
- *“Blessed are they who mourn.”* (Matthew 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 7:10-11).
- Any shame or embarrassment? Jeremiah 3:24-25; Ezra 9:6-7
- The solution: James 4:7-10

THE DANGER OF DYING IN OUR SIN

- The publican recognized he was without the means for atoning for his own sin and sought the mercy of God. Ephesians 2:4-7
- Our need for mercy – examples: Luke 17:11-19; Matthew 9:27-31; Acts 2:37