



parable of the
PHARISEE
& THE TAX COLLECTOR

Parable Reminders

- A Parable is ***not*** a straightforward description of an event, just as it occurred or will occur.
- A Parable is a ***casting or placing side by side*** to a real event or ***to compare likeness or similitude*** to reveal the true meaning by interpretation .



T H E G O O D

SAMARITAN

LUKE 10:25-37



Parable of The Good Samaritan

■ Our Responsibility

- Jesus Christ is and was the perfect example of a good neighbor. His example is one for us to imitate.
- ✓ He saw a world of sinners robbed of their potential, stripped of spiritual ideals, wounded by sins, and unable to rise by themselves from their beaten state. He came down to where the sinners are and gave mankind a corresponding act of mercy, seen in type in the good Samaritan. Through His death and resurrection, He covers our nakedness, binds up our wounds, and heals them. He puts us in the safety of His church and provides for our physical and spiritual needs. God gives us abundantly more than we ask.
- ✓ What shall we do to inherit eternal life?
 - ✓ Love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind
 - ✓ Love our neighbor, as ourselves
 - ✓ Go and do the same, as the Samaritan

Context: Parable of The Pharisee and Tax Collector

■ Luke 17:22-37

- **Jesus Christ's Second Coming is Foretold**
 - Times are to be like Noah and Lot
 - Sudden destruction upon those who are unaware
 - Remember Lot's Wife
 - Trying to hang on to our physical lives / social lives

■ Luke 18:1-8

- **Parable on Prayer / Persistent Widow or Unrighteous Judge**
 - We ought to pray at all times
 - We ought not lose heart

■ Luke 18:8

- **"...when the Son of Man comes, will He find [The] faith on the earth?"**

Parable of The Pharisee and Tax Collector

■ Luke 18:9-14

9 And He also told this parable to certain ones who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt:

10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, and the other a tax-gatherer.

11 "The Pharisee stood and was praying thus to himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax-gatherer. **12** 'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.'

13 "But the tax-gatherer, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ' God, be merciful to me, the sinner! '

14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted."

Parable of The Pharisee and Tax Collector

■ Luke 18:9-14

- Essentially, this parable appears to be about attitudes of the heart. Having the right attitude is one of those things that you cannot afford to neglect as a follower of Christ.
- It is a story in which we find a reversal of the normal human perception of spirituality.
- The parable comes in the context of teaching about prayer. It tells us about two people praying in the temple.



Parable of The Pharisee and Tax Collector

■ Luke 18:9-14

- The Pharisees were an influential group of religious leaders in Israel. They pledged to obey every minute detail of God's law and often went beyond the letter of the OT law in their personal lives.
- Although Jesus was often critical of the Pharisees, this should not obscure the fact that they were well-respected people in the society. In the Jewish perception, the Pharisee was an example of godliness.
- The tax-collectors were as bad in most people's eyes as the Pharisees were good. Nobody liked them. This was not just normal popular resentment against taxes. They were seen as traitors to their own country because they were collaborating with the foreign imperialists, the Romans, by raising taxes for them.
- **Matthew 25:15-22** - The question of tax for Caesar was a very sensitive one. It was used to put Jesus on a hot spot

Parable of The Pharisee and Tax Collector

■ Luke 18:9-14

- The Pharisees communicated their disdain for tax collectors in one of their early confrontations with Jesus. Jesus was eating a meal with “many tax collectors and sinners . . . , for there were many who followed him.” When the Pharisees noticed this, “they asked his disciples: ‘Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?’” (Mark 2:15–16). A “sinner,” to a Pharisee, was a Jew who did not follow the Law (plus the Pharisees’ own rules). And a “tax collector” was—well, a *tax collector*.
- Jesus used the commonly held opinion of tax collectors as an illustration of the final stage of church discipline. Jesus said to “treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector” (Matthew 18:17).
- Many Tax Collectors were dishonest monetarily, but it is interesting that through Jesus’ message; Matthew (Levi) and Zacchaeus (Luke 19:8) were converted and became Christ Followers.
- Many Pharisees were dishonest spiritually, but it is interesting that through Jesus’ message; Nicodemus and Paul (Saul; Acts 23:6, Philippians 3:5) were converted and became Christ Followers.

Parable of The Pharisee and Tax Collector

■ Luke 18:9-14

- The Pharisee compared himself against a variety of violators of the commandments: Extortioners, unjust, adulterers, tax-collectors. The specific reference to the tax-collector standing near him shows a judgmental attitude because he instantly made an evaluation of the man on the basis of his vocation.
- The Pharisee's sense of superiority is the religious activity he was engaged on. Verse 12, two practices are singled out: Fasting and tithing.



Parable of The Pharisee and Tax Collector

■ Luke 18:9-14

- The tax-collector showed a totally different attitude. Contrary to the Pharisee who stood where people could see him, the tax-collector preferred to remain 'afar off' (v. 13), probably on the outer edges of the court of the gentiles. He just needed a place where he could pray to God undisturbed.
- He called himself not 'a' sinner but 'the' sinner. He did not feel that he was just 'a sinner' like everyone else. He had such a conviction of sin that He felt that he was 'the sinner',



Parable of The Pharisee and Tax Collector

■ Luke 18:9-14

- The tax-collector is the one 'justified' in the sight of God. Jesus said, *This man went down to his house justified rather than the other (v. 14)...* The tax-collector went down from the temple in a state of acceptance because he had the kind of attitude that God responds to and honors in the one who approaches Him.

- *He who humbles himself will be exalted.* The penitent sinner who approaches God humbly and looks for His mercy will find it. He will be exalted.



Parable of The Pharisee and Tax Collector

Deceptive Assurance

■ Luke 18:9-14

- *And He also told this parable to certain ones who trusted in themselves that they were righteous...* They had a trust in themselves that they were righteous.

■ Romans 10:2-3

- *"For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. The Jews had a zeal for God, they were devoted to God, but not in the right way. V. 3: "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God." They were religious but not spiritual.*



Parable of The Pharisee and Tax Collector

Growing In Gratitude

■ Luke 18:9-14

- We are to enter into the Christian faith , through baptism, with an attitude of humility, recognizing that we come before God empty handed, that we have nothing with which to impress God or require Him to bless us. That we are sinners who only know life because we live under His mercy, and that it is by virtue of the love demonstrated for us in the cross of our Lord Jesus that we are saved.
- If we are truly humble, there is only one way to respond to such a love: Gratitude. The Christian is indeed a grateful recipient of God's love. Gratitude is so central to what it means to be a Christian that it simply does not make sense to be a believer and to lack in gratitude.



Parable of The Pharisee and Tax Collector

■ Our Responsibility

- There is a direct correspondence between the depth of our humility and gratitude and the vitality of our spiritual life. The more we can appreciate the goodness and the mercy of God, the more our spirituality will mature.
- ✓ The parable of the Pharisee and tax-collector is a contrastive story with one basic message. It can be summarized by Jesus' final statement: **He who exalts himself will be humbled and he who humbles himself will be exalted.**
- ✓ In Proverbs 27:2, Solomon expresses the principle of this parable: **"Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips."** This principle works in all facets of life, but most people cannot see it at work because they see no reward for humbly working behind the scenes.

Parable of The Pharisee and Tax Collector

■ Our Responsibility

- There is a direct correspondence between the depth of our humility and gratitude and the vitality of our spiritual life. The more we can appreciate the goodness and the mercy of God, the more our spirituality will mature.
- ✓ Those who elevate themselves, Isaiah writes about such people: ". . . who say, 'Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am holier than you!' These are smoke in [God's] nostrils, a fire that burns all the day" (Isaiah 65:5).
- ✓ *Justified* means "to be declared righteous." The apostle Paul teaches that human beings are not justified by their works but by God's mercy—by grace (Titus 3:4-8). Our responsibilities in being justified are to humble ourselves in faith before God, repent of sin, and plead for His mercy and forgiveness.

GROUP DISCUSSION

