

Jesus and the Tax Collector

Luke 18:9-14

March 13, 2016

The Publican (tax collector) and the Pharisee:

1) Trusting in self vs. trusting in Jesus

The Pharisee's thinking was totally wrong about himself. (Luke 18:10-12) His view of himself was not just distorted, but just 100% wrong.

For argument's sake, if we trust in our self for salvation, how much is "good enough?"

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." ³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

John 3:1-8

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Galatians 6:14

And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'

Luke 18:13

2) Our accomplishments vs. God's accomplishments

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

1 Samuel 16:7

We have gotten used to our sin(s) and like the Pharisee, we think we do nothing that offends God and we have much to offer God.

All I have to offer God is what He is given me in Jesus, which is more than enough.

3) Position based on actions vs. position based on desperation

But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousness's are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Isaiah 64:6

"There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one. Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have practiced deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Romans 3:10-18

“Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.” **Isaiah 6:5**

- BOTH WERE **SINNERS**
- BOTH NEEDED A **SAVIOR**
- ONE KNEW IT AND ONE DID NOT
- ONE PRAYED A SURFACE PRAYER AND THE OTHER A SINCERE PRAYER
- ONE WAS **SELF**-RIGHTEOUS AND ONE WANTED **GOD**-RIGHTEOUSNESS
- ONE WENT AWAY THE **SAME** AND ONE WENT AWAY **JUSTIFIED**

‘The Pharisee’s pride condemned him but, the publican’s (tax collector) humble faith saved him.’ ~ Warren Wiersbe

“Any faith that rests short of the Cross is a faith that will land you short of heaven.” ~ Charles Spurgeon

Therefore, my position before God should be:

- 1) **Guilty**
- 2) Broken
- 3) Salvation (1 **time** and **daily**)
- 4) Daily before God’s **throne**
- 5) Shunning self righteousness
- 6) **Repentance**
- 7) Praise
- 8) **Repeat**

I don’t trust in myself, my actions or my thoughts, rather I trust in JESUS!

Much more than, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. **Romans 5:9-10**

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. **2 Corinthians 12:10**

Prayer Focus:

- **That I would truly “know” God**
- **That I would lay down my “filthy rags” for God’s righteousness**
- **That I would ask God what He needs to show me in my life (pride, selfishness, hate bitterness etc).**
- **That revival would begin in me!**