

Agape House of Worship
Midweek Service & Bible Study

The Parables: Luke 18:9-14
The Pharisee and The Tax Collector

Date: Wednesday, March 22 2023
Facilitator: Pastor Hubie Berrios

Read: Luke 18:9-14

Introduction:

- I. When we approach the parables we have to keep in mind the larger context which is The Kingdom of God. The parables explain 2 main ideas regarding The Kingdom. #1 How to gain entrance into the kingdom #2 The economy of the kingdom. Knowing and understanding points 1 and 2 are of supreme importance to the believer being that the Kingdom of God is our dwelling place now and forevermore by the **merits** of Jesus Christ **alone**.

Q. How does man gain access to The Kingdom of God and partake of its economy? A. Believing in the Gospel message. Repenting of our sin. Living in obedience to God's word.

- II. **Parable-** Gr. Parable: it literally means laying one thing by the side of another for the purpose of comparing/contrasting one thing with another. In a parable a story is communicated then the meaning or explanation is placed next to it. What is important for us to remember is that a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.
- III. The focus of The Parable of The Pharisee and the Tax Collector is to show the immediate audience throughout church history how it is that man is justified/made righteous before God.

Let's examine this parable verse by verse.

Vs. 9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others

1. This parable is unique in that it begins with Jesus giving the meaning of the parable before telling the story/parable. In other parables Jesus begins with a story and finishes with the meaning.
2. Vs 9 is the hook that Jesus used to lure His audience in. The best stories have a great hook, an intriguing plot and an unexpected plot twist. This parable has all 3.

Vs. 10 "**Two men** went up to the **temple** to pray , one a **Pharisee** and the other a **tax collector**."

1. **Pharisee** - Pharisees were the religious ruling class within Judaism in the time of Christ and the early church. They were known for their emphasis on personal piety, their acceptance of oral tradition in addition to the written Law, and their teaching that all Jews should observe all 600-plus laws in the Torah, including the rituals concerning ceremonial purification. In their view, if anyone deserved to enter the Kingdom of God it would be them based on their own merits.
2. **Tax Collector** - The tax collectors in the Bible were *Jews* who worked for their Roman oppressors. They were traitors to their own countrymen. Instead of fighting the Romans, the publicans helped them by collecting taxes and enriched themselves at the same time at the expense of their fellow Jews. They were in every sense thieves, corrupt, carnal, callous and sensuous men.
3. **The Audience** - As far as Jesus' immediate audience was concerned The Pharisee is the hero of the story, the Tax Collector was the villain. The Pharisee was the gold standard of Jewish religion, the Tax Collector was the exact opposite. The Pharisee was righteous, the Tax Collector was the worst of sinners.

4. There was prayer 3 times a day in the temple 9am, 12pm & 3pm. The most attended were the morning and evening which also coincided with the morning and evening sacrifices where two lambs were offered for the sins of the people one in the morning the second in the evening.

Vs. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank you that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. Vs 12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

1. **His Eyes** - His pride caused him to look down (despise/have contempt) on others. Pride Proverbs 16:5 Contempt Lev. 19:18 He only saw the sin in others, not his own.
2. **His Stand** - Standing was the appropriate posture for prayer for the Jew. But it's the way he stood Orig. Gr. Histaymee: To Stand/To Place Oneself/To Place In A Balance
3. **His Prayer** - Full Of Self. Ascribed no glory to God. Fell miserably short. Jer. 9:23 & 24
4. **His heart** - It deceived him. Jer. 17:9-10 He did not realize that his heart and thoughts were under divine review.
5. **His Self Appraisal** - "I'm good." "I'm right with God." Eccl. 7:20; Romans 3:9-20
6. **His Petition** - He made no petition.
7. **His Sacrifice** - Brought no sacrifice. He and his works were the sacrifice. Is. 64:6

Vs. 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his chest, saying, '**God, be merciful to me the sinner!**'

1. **His Eyes** - It is said that the eyes are the window of the heart. His eyes were broken/crushed. Ps. 51:17
2. **His Stand** - Afar off. His shame would not allow him to draw near. He knew that he was unworthy to approach a Holy God. Hab. 1:13
3. **His Prayer** - Ascribed Glory to God. Uttered from a posture of humility. It reflected his need to receive from God. 2 Chron. 7:14
4. **His Heart** - He beat his chest. In Jewish culture of the day women would beat their chest during times of lament and mourning. 2 Chron. 7:14
5. **His Self Appraisal** - "I'm not good." "I need to get right with God." Rom.3:20-25
6. **His Petition** - English Mercy/Gr. Eleos The word the tax collector uses is Hilaskomai which means propitiation. Propitiation is the divine work of God alone where he takes the sin/unrighteousness, the guilt, condemnation and penalty of a repentant sinner and imputes/transfers it to a pure/spotless/innocent and righteous victim and consumes in His fiery wrath. Once satisfied with His own offering He imputes/transfers the purity/innocence/righteousness of the innocent victim on the sinner and deals with him as if he never had sinned at all.
7. **His Sacrifice** - He brought a victim. An ox, goat, lamb, turtle dove or pigeon. Every sacrifice in the OT proclaimed and pointed to the ultimate propitiatory sacrifice of Jesus on the cross that placated God's wrath against us and imputes Christ's righteousness in us.

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

1. **Plot twist** - A. God justified the tax collector and showed him grace and mercy. B. The Pharisee returned to his house the same way he left it,, a child of wrath.

Key Takeaways