

THE GREATEST STORYTELLER

Exploring the Life-Changing Stories of Jesus

Lesson #3 – Applause of Heaven

Today we're going to study a parable that Jesus told about the proper attitude we should have when approaching God in prayer. (READ Luke 18:9-10) Why then did Jesus tell this parable?

But the way to approach God is in Humble Submission. Jesus then uses two very familiar characters, to illustrate His point. One of the characters was a Pharisee and the other was a Tax - Collector. They were very different men, with very different prayers, and very different results.

I. SELF-VINDICATION OF THE PHARISEE

(READ Luke 18:11-12) Now we often equate the Pharisees with hypocrisy and self-righteousness. But not all the Pharisees were bad guys. Can you think of some good Pharisees?

Why was Jesus often critical of the Pharisees?

This Pharisee gives us a clear picture of the kind of man that he is.

1. He begins by making Comparisons. Who does he compare himself to?
2. He reminded God about his Piety.
 - By Tithing all of his possessions.
 - By Fasting twice a week.

But what does God think about pride? (Proverbs 8:13)

II. SELF-DENIAL OF THE TAX-COLLECTOR

The Pharisee stood up and displayed a Haughty attitude.

The tax-collector bowed down with a Humble attitude.
(READ Luke 18:13)

This tax-collector was different. He didn't waste God's time. He didn't Compare _____ himself to others or try to vindicate himself through his good deeds.

He Confessed _____ his sin before God, and he declared himself to be Unworthy _____.

He didn't Lift _____ his eyes to Heaven, because he felt inadequate before God. He stood at a Distance _____ from the holy temple, and he beat upon his breast. Why did he do that? (READ James 4:8-10)

When a sinner humbles himself before God and pleads for His mercy, no matter who he is or what he has done, what happens in Heaven? (Luke 15:7, 10)

Well, both of these men in Jesus' parable sought applause.

- The Pharisee sought the applause of Men _____.
- The Tax-collector sought the applause of Heaven _____.

But who did Jesus say received justification by God in His parable? (READ Luke 18:14)

So what lessons can we learn from Jesus' parable?

1. Consider _____ others better than yourselves. (Philippians 2:3-4)
2. Seek _____ the applause of Heaven. (Galatians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:4)
3. Rejoice _____ when a sinner comes to Christ. (Luke 15:7, 10)