

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 H_____ S_____. Jesus then uses two very familiar characters, to illustrate His point. One of the characters was a P_____ and the other was a T_____ - C_____. They were very different men, with very different prayers, and very different results.

I. SELF-V_____ 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 C_____. Who does he compare himself to?
2. He reminded God about his P_____.
 - By T_____ all of his possessions.
 - By F_____ twice a week.

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

II. SELF-D_____ OF THE TAX-COLLECTOR

The Pharisee stood up and displayed a H_____ attitude.

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

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

He C_____ his sin before God, and he declared himself to be U_____.

He didn't L_____ his eyes to Heaven, because he felt inadequate before God. He stood at a D_____ 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 M_____.
- The Tax-collector sought the applause of H_____.

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