

Parables of the King and the Kingdom: Two Worshippers

Luke 18:1-14

This morning, we continue our study of the parables by examining one of Jesus' direct and pointed parables. Today's parable is preceded by a parable concerning prayer and the importance of persistence (much like the parable of the friend at midnight found in Luke 11:5-8). The second parable teaches us the attitude we should have in prayer. It clearly demonstrates that the way of salvation and justification is entered through humility.

- **The _____ of this convicting parable.** (9) This parable was extremely pointed and directed to a particular people with a most common sinful condition. While we are not told exactly who these people were, we are told what they thought, both about themselves and others.

What are the characteristics of a self-righteous person?

- **The _____ of these two worshippers.** (10) Again we see Jesus drawing a contrast between two opposite ends of the religious spectrum: a Pharisee and a tax collector. These two could not be farther apart!

These two men came to the temple to pray! Let us now consider:

- **The _____ of their prayers.** (11-13) The contrast between these two worshippers is more than their social standing or position; it is a difference of the heart! One recognizes his great need for mercy; the other thinks he needs nothing from God.

How were the prayers of these two men different?

- **The _____ that leads to justification.** (14) This story is a parable of contrast: two men, two prayers and two vastly different results! One man left justified, made right in the sight of God; the other man went away unjustified, not made right before God. Outwardly, we would probably have assumed the reverse.

God justifies guilty sinners that come to Him with a meek and broken spirit of repentance and faith. Quit trusting in your accomplishments, and start trusting in the finished work of Christ.

- **Jesus _____ the main point of the parable (14b)** Jesus closes this parable with the truth of God's economy, "exalt yourself, and you will be humbled; humble yourself, and God will exalt you."

Application: An outward, external, self-righteousness never makes us right with God. However, true humility and repentance is always recognized by God! God alone can justify guilty sinners!