

Luke 18.9-14

Not All Prayers are Counted Equal

Vs 1-8 Call 2 Prayer: Persistent Widow, Seeks for justice from unjust Judge

Until you have stood for years knocking at a locked door, your knuckles bleeding, you do not really know what prayer is. Elderly Black Pastor

His elect cry to him day and night, in fact, not because he does not listen, but precisely because he does. Michael Wilcock

v. 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Faith in Society! Faith in World! Faith in Church? >> Faith in YOU!?

Will Jesus find THE Faith > People Believing in God's TRUTH

9 "He also told this parable" 2 Parables: 1 Big Idea = How 2 Come 2 God

Luke: Stories about Men & Women Interwoven by HS's INSPIRATION

2 Men, 2 Prayers, 2 Applications, 1 Savior, 2 Destinies

1. Two Men

a. Pharisee TODAY synonym for Hypocrite: We BOOO & HISS!

JESUS Day, People CHEERED! Highly RESPECTED by Many

(Pharisees are) "a certain sect of the Jews that appear more religious than others, and seem to interpret the laws more accurately" Josephus

Best Reputation in Israel > GOOD Guys PRAY > He was a GOOD GUY!

Believed Special Place in Heaven for him > Great Church MEMBER

1) Man of Prayer – words came EASY in Prayer, Eloquent Prayer v. 11

2) Thankful to God v. 11 "God, I thank you" > Grateful for HIMSELF

3) Changed Life v. 11 "I am not like other men..." BETTER than Others

4) Disciplined Life v. 12 "I fast 2 X's week" / OT: ONCE a Yr / Yom Kip

5) Generous v. 12 "tithes of all I get" / BEYOND OT Law Requirement

6) BEST Guy in Temple – People like HIM get to Heaven

b. Tax Collector / Publican v. 13 "tax collector stood at a distance"

Afternoon Prayer Service in TEMPLE in Jerusalem > 3 in Afternoon

Both Men STOOD in Prayer: Standing NORMAL Jewish Prayer Posture

INTENSE Prayer – KNEEL > Jesus in GETHSEMANE

TAL: ONLY Stand or Kneel: Stood for Fish & Chips on Newport Beach

Common Idea: Pharisee BAD, Tax Collector Must be Really Good: NOT!

NOT H&R Block Accountant > Friendly Tax Preparer >> MONSTER!

In today's culture, the closest social equivalent (*to tax collectors*) would be drug pushers and pimps, those who prey on society, who make money off others' bodies and make a living stealing from others.

Kent Hughes

Romans farmed out Tax Collection to Highest Bidding BAD BOYS

v. 13 "standing far off" Unclean, Out of Place > Not Belong in Temple

1) Extortion – v. 11 "I am not like other men – EXTORTIONERS"

Lives by Over-charging People – Power of Rome behind

2) Unjust – v. 11 "I am not like other men – UNJUST"

Taken More than was PONO or Righteous

Best GRIFT was in Jerusalem > Most Wealth > Biggest PROFITS

Works for VISA/Master Card – Account % Interest > VISA ++%

3) – v. 11 "I am not like other men – ADULTERER: at least had MONEY

Today we Brag about Sexual Conquests > Multiple Partners

Tax Collector not Allowed Witness Court // Shepherd, Gambler, Robber

2. Two Prayers

a. Pharisee: BI-LATERAL Negotiation > God OWES him Something

Temple Segregated: Jew/Gentile, Men/Women, Priests/Laity, Clean/Unclean

Parable NOT EXAGGERATION - Prayer of Pharisees at time of Jesus:

"I thank you Jehovah my God, that you have assigned my lot with those who sit in the house of learning, and not with those who sit in the street corners. For I rise early and they rise early; I rise to study the words of the Torah, and they rise to attend to things of no importance. I weary myself and they weary themselves; I weary myself and gain thereby, while they weary themselves and gain nothing. I run and they run; I run toward the life of the age to come, while they run toward the pit of destruction."

Talmud, Berakhoth

We are the Chosen Few, the rest can all be Damned,
there's room enough in Hell for you, we won't have Heaven Crammed.

b. Tax Collector v. 13 “not lift eyes to heaven, but beat his breast”

ANE > WOMEN, Not Men, BEAT their Chest – Most Extreme Times

v. 13 “God be merciful to me THE sinner” - 3 Key Words

BODY Language was Clear as CONFESSION: **God, Mercy, Sinner**

If the Pharisee is a venomous villain and the publican is generous Joe the bartender... then each gets what he deserves, there is no surprise of grace and the parable is robbed...but what both receive is ‘in spite of’ not ‘because of.’
Fred Craddock

2 Great Sinners > Difference – 1 was HONEST Sinner – DESPERATE

3. Two Applications

a. Pharisee > Danger of SELF-Righteousness > Happens to US

Visible Symptom v. 11 “I thank you that I am not like other men”

Better Than Others > DESPISE Others > PROMOTE Yourself

Pharisee prayed BY Himself, ABOUT Himself, TO Himself – 5 X’s ‘I’

CONGRATULATING God on how Wonderfully He had made HIM!

WOODPECKER - pecking on TRUNK of DEAD TREE

Suddenly LIGHTNING Bolt STRIKES - SPLITS TREE IN TWO

Woodpecker flies to safety and says "Look what I did!"

Religion is very deceptive. The Pharisee had a beautiful religious feeling in the Temple. He felt right with God and life, his heart told him so – but his heart lied to him! Ronald Wallace

v. 9 confident of own righteousness & looked down on everybody else

Pharisee THOT he was Accepted by God for WHAT he DID

TOO GOOD – He tells ALL about just HOW GOOD he is – 5 X’s ‘I’---

Really UNI-LATERAL > 1 Person in FOCUS, ONE Person

SPURGEON’S sermon on THIS MAN ‘TOO GOOD TO BE SAVED!’

The Pharisee’s prayer is so laden with self-congratulation that it can hardly get off the ground, let alone wing its way to the listening ear of God.
Michael Wilcock

b. Tax Collector – SIMPLE and SINCERE Words of Prayer

Tax Collector asks for MERCY from God he Knows he’s OFFENDED

v 13 “God be merciful to me THE sinner” > Not looking @ Anyone Else

Prayer Supposed be Unilateral: > but God not Man DICTATES Terms

The only thing we contribute to the plan of salvation is the sin to make it necessary.
Eric Alexander

Cannot Strike DEALS w GOD, We have NOTHING to BARGAIN With

Biblical prayer is impertinent, persistent, shameless, indecorous; it is more like haggling in an outdoor bazaar than the polite monologues of the church. Walter Wink

4. One Savior

a. Humble Receive Grace - God resists Proud, Grace to Humble

The Tax Collector knew Enormity of his Sins > Pharisee ignorant of his

It is a great mistake to think the Tax Collector was a Decent Person. He was a Rotter and he knew it. Mercy was only thing he Dared ask God for

MERCY – God does NOT give us what we do deserve.

GRACE – God does give us what we do NOT deserve.

v. 14 “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

What the Pharisee said about himself was true. His trouble was not that he was not far enough along the road, but that he was on the wrong road altogether. Leon Morris

People KNEW the Form/Plan of the Evening Prayer in Temple

During that TIME Worshippers offer PRIVATE Prayer of Devotion

Pharisee says ALL come by Grace > FACT: Nothing came by Grace

“I” 5 X’s / Active Verbs > Talking to God about Self & Accomplishments

RELIGION based on ME > Not Need Salvation > NOT Ask Forgiveness

Not Ask for Grace Cover all Sins: Can’t See sins when Speaking of Them

Confession of SIN > But NOT Admitting his sin TO GOD

One came to the temple a self-confessed sinner and went home justified; the other came to the temple virtuous and went home condemned. Douglas Milne

b. Lamb that was Slain – the Rest of Story > Evening Prayer

People KNEW the Form/Plan of the Evening Prayer in Temple

Lamb selected for Sacrifice > wOut Blemish, Washed, Inspected

Bound on Altar > Face looking West, Expert Kills, Gathers Blood

Blood Spread on Altar > Carcass carried to Flame, burnt up

Vivid Symbol > ID in KZ – Neighbors slay sheep in Apt SNOW

Tax Collector at that Moment > Lamb Chosen, Washed, SLAIN

At that MOMENT “God be Merciful to ME --- THE Sinner”

Not Lifting Self Up over Anyone Else > Only looked Within at Self

18.13 Be Propitiated > WRATH be Satisfied by Shedding of Blood

1) None of us can BEAR our own Sins and Live > Sin >> HELL

2) God provided Lamb of God to Propitiate Sins of World

There is Forgiveness with God that He may be FEARED!

Wrath of God poured on a Substitute > Set FREE from FEAR!

Tax Collector did the Divine Math > How could that Lamb save Me?

How would Sin of World be Propitiated?

Weeks Later > At Time of Evening Sacrifice 3 PM

Lamb of God > Washed by Perfume > Examined by Unjust Courts: Sanhedrin, Herod, Pilate >

Even BAD BOYS all said INNOCENT

About 3 PM > My God, My God why am I FORSAKEN?

God answered PRAYER of Tax Collector > Be MERCIFUL

Left JUSTIFIED – How? God HIMSELF paid his Debt, pardoned Sin, experience Judgment, suffered Hell, died Death

NOW Enter the Temple – Earth, More Importantly in HEAVEN

What are you asking for? Do you know how bad you are, and how much mercy you really need? The tax collector knew that he was a sinner who deserved nothing except divine wrath. This was good to know, because it compelled him to seek for a salvation that only God could give, and only by his grace. The fact of our sin should never cause us to despair, for it is only when we know the depth of our depravity that we are ready to receive the atonement that God offers for our sin. As Basil the Great wisely observed, ‘Humility often saves a sinner who has committed many terrible transgressions.’

Philip Ryken

Congregational Prayer – Psalm 103

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field;

for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children,

to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!

Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will!

Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!