

I. Religious Pride - Luke 18:9-12

1. The target of this parable is simply stated at **verse 9**
 - A. Pride - caused Satan's fall - Is. 14:14; Gen 3:1-7
 - B. It is the source of sin today
2. To some who were confident of their own righteousness
 - they do not see their own need
 - Rea -pride blinds us
- Rea 3. Two-fold problem
 - A. Confident in their own righteousness
 - B. Looked down on everyone else - disdain
4. Pharisees believed they had a special status with God
- Rea 5. Do you know anyone who looks down on others?
 - don't you think they are blind to that
6. Two men pray (**verse 10**)
 - Rea A. Both at the temple
 - B. Pharisee and tax collector
7. Prayer
 - A. Jews generally prayed at three times - 9,12 and 3
 - B. Two purposes (or agendas for prayer)
 - 1) Pharisee - to impress God
 - 2) Tax collector - humbly ask for God's help
- Rea *Two uses of prayer
8. The prayer of the Pharisee (**verses 11-12**)
 - A. Thank you I'm not like these
 - B. Robbers, evildoers, adulterers - other people
 - Rea -in prayer he compared himself to others
 - C. He boasts of his deeds
 - fast twice a week
 - tithe of all I get
 - Rea D. He meditates upon himself
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Prayer in the bible is not meditation
 - it is engaging in a real relationship with God
 2. Our religion can degenerate into comparisons with the "evildoers" in our lives
 3. Note that both were "praying" - not everyone who prays,... prays
 4. This "parable" is a comparison

II. Godly Humility - Luke 18:13-14

1. The tax collector stood at a distance (**verse 13**)
 - not worthy to approach God
 - would not even look up at God
 - beat his breast - remorse
2. Have mercy on me - I'm a sinner
3. At **verse 14** Jesus tells us the meaning of this comparison

- A. This man went home justified
 - B. The humble will be exalted and the proud brought down
 - Rea -this is the principle behind the events
 - C. We must confess our sins to the Father
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Acknowledge your sins
 2. The barrier between mankind and God was addressed by the tax collector
 3. Humility is rare - especially in God's church
 4. How is it possible that Christians (at church) do not look more like Jesus (the meekest man on the earth)? How do we get so proud?

III. Childlike Faith - Luke 18:15-17

1. Bringing babies (**verse 15**)
 - to place His hands on them - bless them
 2. The disciples rebuked them - thinking they were "helping" Jesus
 - they knew how busy He was
 - Rea 3. Another possibility - children were seen as a nuisance
 - the children were getting the attention (not them) - the disciples have been sidelined for these kids
 4. Jesus called them to Himself (**verse 16**)
 - let them come and do not hinder them
 - Rea 5. If you don't receive the kingdom like these - then you will not receive it (**verse 17**)
 - note the word "enter" it - you can't get in. So this teaching is not about living the Christian life (humbly) its about going to heaven at all.
 - Rea 6. Receiving the kingdom is just that "receiving" - some don't believe they need to "receive" anything
 - I don't "need" anything
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Jesus valued little people
 - we value things, and money and pride
 2. The disciples (obviously) carried with them the attitudes of their prevailing culture
 3. Jesus is the blesser - to get the blessing, you must come to the "blesser"
 - Rea 4. I'm reminded of how Jesus touched (also) the leper

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