

June 6, 2021

Luke 18:9-14

***The Parables of Jesus:
The Pharisee and the Tax Collector***

Introduction – a modern retelling

#1 – What is the identity of the original audience? (18:9)

#2 – What is the problem, question or circumstance that prompted the parable? (18:9)

#3 – What is the natural meaning of the parable? (18:10-14a)

2 Men v. 10

the Pharisee

the tax collector

2 Prayers vv. 11-13

the Pharisee's prayer 11-12

attitude

standard of righteousness as compared to _____

the tax collector's prayer 13

attitude

standard of righteousness as compared to _____

2 outcomes

v. 14a

#4 – What is the main point of the parable?

#5 – What is the actual or intended response of the hearers?

#6 – What interpretation did Jesus give the parable?

For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted

Luke 18:14b

Questions for Discussion and Contemplation

1. Why is it so easy to think we are better than others and look down on them?
2. Why do you think the Pharisee's attitude ("I thank God that I'm not like...") is so contagious?
3. How might we be like the Pharisee in the parable and like the tax collector?
4. Why do people believe they must earn their place in heaven?
5. How might this parable apply to someone who is not a believer yet?
6. What does Dr. Ryrie mean when he writes about verse 14, "The Pharisee thought God operated on a merit system, and thus could be put in man's debt through good works"? In what circumstances have you seen people act as if this were true? How might believers act as if this were true?
7. How should what we learn from this parable affect the way we pray?