



Lesson Two: The Pharisee & the Tax Collector

Paul Goebel - February 9, 2021

Luke 18:9-14

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ 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.”

Table Discussion Questions

1. How do you think Jesus would tell the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector today? What is a modern-day example of a pharisee? What is a modern-day example of a tax collector?
2. What does it mean to be self-righteous? What does self-righteousness have to do with trusting in yourself?
3. Do you care how you are seen by others? Why or why not? How does managing your image influence what you do?
4. Where do your moral standards come from? Are your standards based on the morals of other people or are they based on the holiness of God? What is the difference?
5. What is on your spiritual resume? If all of these accomplishments were taken away, would you still be satisfied with knowing Jesus?
6. What makes the Tax Collector’s prayer a model prayer? What does it teach us about our posture before God? What does it teach us about God’s grace towards us?