

# **The Pharisee and the Publican**

## **(Luke 18:9-14)**

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### **Introduction**

*Luke 18:9-10 ... 9 And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: 10 “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. (NASB95)*

### ***The Danger of a False Standard***

This parable reveals the danger of a false standard (2 Cor. 10:12).

*2 Corinthians 10:12 ... 12 For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding. (NASB95)*

### ***The Danger of Trusting in Self***

It reveals the danger of trusting in self (2 Cor. 10:18).

*2 Corinthians 10:18 ... 18 For it is not he who commends himself that is approved, but he whom the Lord commends. (NASB95)*

### ***The Danger of Viewing Others with Contempt***

It also reveals the danger of viewing others with contempt (Rom. 14:1-4, 10).

*Romans 14:1-4 ... 1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. 2 One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. 3 The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him. 4 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. (NASB95)*

*Romans 14:10 ... 10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. (NASB95)*

## The Self-Righteous Pharisee

*Luke 18:11-12 ... 11 “The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 ‘I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ (NASB95)*

### **Justified Himself**

The Pharisee sought to justify himself (Luke 10:25-29; 16:14-15).

*Luke 10:25-29 ... 25 And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” 26 And He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?” 27 And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” 28 And He said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.” 29 But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” (NASB95)*

*Luke 16:14-15 ... 14 Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were scoffing at Him. 15 And He said to them, “**You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.** (NASB95)*

### **Overstated His Faithfulness**

He overstated his own faithfulness (1 Sam. 15:10-23; Rom. 2:1-3, 17-24).

*1 Samuel 15:10-23 ... 10 Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying, 11 “I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following Me and has not carried out My commands.” And Samuel was distressed and cried out to the Lord all night. 12 Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul; and it was told Samuel, saying, “Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set up a monument for himself, then turned and proceeded on down to Gilgal.” 13 Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed are you of the Lord! I have carried out the command of the Lord.” 14 But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?” 15 Saul said, “They have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep and oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord your God; but the rest we have utterly destroyed.” 16 Then Samuel said to Saul, “Wait, and let me tell you what the Lord said to me last night.” And he said to him, “Speak!” 17 Samuel said, “Is it not true, though you were little in your own eyes, you were made the head of the tribes of Israel? And the Lord anointed you king over Israel, 18 and the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, ‘Go and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are exterminated.’ 19 “Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord, but rushed upon the spoil and did what was evil in the sight of the Lord?” 20 Then Saul said to Samuel, “I did obey the voice of the Lord, and went on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and have brought back Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.*

21 *“But the people took some of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the choicest of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God at Gilgal.”* 22 Samuel said, *“Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. 23 “For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has also rejected you from being king.”* (NASB95)

*Romans 2:1-3 ... 1 Therefore you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. 2 And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things. 3 But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God?* (NASB95)

*Romans 2:17-24 ... 17 But if you bear the name “Jew” and rely upon the Law and boast in God, 18 and know His will and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law, 19 and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, 20 a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth, 21 you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal? 22 You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God? 24 For “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” just as it is written.* (NASB95)

## **The Self-Effacing Publican**

*Luke 18:13 ... 13 “But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’* (NASB95)

### **Evidenced Honesty**

The publican was honest (1 Sam. 15:24-35; 2 Sam. 12:13-14; Psa. 51:1-4).

*1 Samuel 15:24-35 ... 24 Then Saul said to Samuel, “**I have sinned; I have indeed transgressed the command of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and listened to their voice. 25 “Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me, that I may worship the Lord.”** 26 But Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.” 27 As Samuel turned to go, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. 28 So Samuel said to him, “The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to your neighbor, who is better than you. 29 “Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind.” 30 **Then he said, “I have sinned; but please honor me now before the elders of***

**my people and before Israel, and go back with me, that I may worship the Lord your God.”** 31 So Samuel went back following Saul, and Saul worshiped the Lord. 32 Then Samuel said, “Bring me Agag, the king of the Amalekites.” And Agag came to him cheerfully. And Agag said, “Surely the bitterness of death is past.” 33 But Samuel said, “As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women.” And Samuel hewed Agag to pieces before the Lord at Gilgal. 34 Then Samuel went to Ramah, but Saul went up to his house at Gibeah of Saul. 35 Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death; for Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel. (NASB95)

2 Samuel 12:13-14 ... 13 Then **David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.”** And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has taken away your sin; you shall not die. 14 “However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die.” (NASB95)

Psalms 51:1-4 ... 1 For the choir director. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. 4 **Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight,** So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge. (NASB95)

## **Evidenced Penitent**

He also was penitent (Isa. 1:27; 30:15-17; Jer. 5:3).

Isaiah 1:27 ... 27 Zion will be redeemed with justice And her repentant ones with righteousness. (NASB95)

Isaiah 30:15-17 ... 15 For thus the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, has said, “In repentance and rest you will be saved, In quietness and trust is your strength.” But you were not willing, 16 And you said, “No, for we will flee on horses,” Therefore you shall flee! “And we will ride on swift horses,” Therefore those who pursue you shall be swift. 17 One thousand will flee at the threat of one man; You will flee at the threat of five, Until you are left as a flag on a mountain top And as a signal on a hill. (NASB95)

Jeremiah 5:3 ... 3 O Lord, do not Your eyes look for truth? You have smitten them, But they did not weaken; You have consumed them, But they refused to take correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; They have refused to repent. (NASB95)

## **The Lord’s Pronouncement**

Luke 18:14 ... 14 **“I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”** (NASB95)

## **The Blessing of Humility**

Jesus' statement reminds us of the blessings of humility (Prov. 15:33; 18:12; 22:4; Eph. 4:1-3; Phil. 2:3-4).

*Proverbs 18:12 ... 12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, But humility goes before honor. (NASB95)*

*Proverbs 22:4 ... 4 The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord Are riches, honor and life. (NASB95)*

*Ephesians 4:1-3 ... 1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (NASB95)*

*Philippians 2:3-4 ... 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. (NASB95)*

## **The Curse of Pride**

It also is a reminder of the curse of pride (Prov. 8:13; 11:2; 16:18; 26:12; 29:23).

*Proverbs 8:13 ... 13 "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverted mouth, I hate. (NASB95)*

*Proverbs 11:2 ... 2 When pride comes, then comes dishonor, But with the humble is wisdom. (NASB95)*

*Proverbs 16:18 ... 18 Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling. (NASB95)*

*Proverbs 26:12 ... 12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him. (NASB95)*

*Proverbs 29:23 ... 23 A man's pride will bring him low, But a humble spirit will obtain honor. (NASB95)*