

# **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)*

This parable reveals the danger of a false standard (2 Cor. 10:12). It reveals the danger of trusting in self (2 Cor. 10:18). It also reveals the danger of viewing others with contempt (Rom. 14:1-4, 10).

### **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)*

The Pharisee sought to justify himself (Luke 10:25-29; 16:14-15). He overstated his own faithfulness (1 Sam. 15:10-23; Rom. 2:1-3, 17-24).

### **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)*

The publican was honest (1 Sam. 15:24-35; 2 Sam. 12:13-14; Psa. 51:1-4). He also was penitent (Isa. 1:27; 30:15-17; Jer. 5:3).

### **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)*

Jesus’ statement reminds us of the blessings of humility (Prov. 15:33; 18:12; 22:4; Eph. 4:1-3; Phil. 2:3-4). It also is a reminder of the curse of pride (Prov. 8:13; 11:2; 16:18; 26:12; 29:23).