

Rediscover Jesus, Part 67: “The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector”

Luke 18:9-14

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*God does not justify those who trust in themselves
but those who trust in Him alone.*

I. The Prayer of the Pharisee (vv. 9-12)

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.’

II. The Prayer of the Tax Collector (vv. 13-14)

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.”

Matthew 5:48 (ESV) = You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV) = Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Life Application:

1. What is it that’s making you feel worthy or unworthy at this time? What does that reveal about your standard of righteousness and where you put your trust in?
2. How does the Gospel of Jesus Christ affect your standard of righteousness, and where you should put your trust in?
3. Who can you share your reflection with?