



STORY

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican - Luke 18:9-14

1/8/04

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Father in heaven, help me to make clear to the children the need to turn their eyes and thoughts ever away from their deeds and works to the life, death and resurrection of their Savior, Jesus Christ. May they ever pray, "Lord, be merciful to me a sinner," so that in Jesus' life and death they stand justified before Thee. Amen.

VOCABULARY

extortioners - those who use their position of power to take money or goods from others

fast - to go without food

tithe - to give a tenth or portion of one's goods

smote - strike

justified - to be declared just or righteous

exalteth - build up in honor

abased - humbled, brought down

OUTER AIM

To show the difference between those who trust in themselves and those who look to the Savior.

INNER AIM

To lead the children to despair of their own works and to rely completely on Jesus for salvation.

BACKGROUND *Rupprecht Bible History References, Vol. 2, pp. 276 ff.*

The Pharisees and the Publicans were very much a part of the scene when Jesus lived on earth. The Pharisees were highly respected by the populace and the Publicans were greatly despised. The Old Testament laws were the object of the Pharisees' teachings. They stressed outward obedience to these laws. They made a great show of keeping them. It was taught by them that the fulfilling of the Law would open heaven's doors for them. This stress on works is very much a part of the religious scene in our day also. It is very much a part of human thinking-to get something, I have to give something. We find it taught in the lodges, scouting, and even in many of the organized Christian church bodies. Salvation by works is proclaimed boldly and openly. This parable should shed God's light on all who attempt to get to heaven by their works.

vs. 9-10 Pharisee - promulgator of salvation by one's works

Publican - a tax collector for the Roman government. They were despised for serving the Roman government as well as for collecting more than they should have. They were looked upon as being thieves.

vs. 11 a prayer exalting one's own deeds

vs. 12 fast twice a week-more than was required

tithes of all-tithing was required on only certain items

vs. 13 publican does not boast—knows himself to be a sinner, with eyes cast down, and striking his breast in humility, he pleads for mercy. . . ”just as I am without one plea but that Thy blood was shed for me . . .”

vs. 14 Jesus looks at the two and makes it clear that the publican was declared just, righteous, by God “went down to his house justified.” While the pharisee was turned away.

STUDENT PRAYER - TLH 388 vs. 1 and 5

Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God I come, I come

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

PRESENTATION

Briefly review previous story as time allows. Make links to the new story when possible. Tell the story: Teachers, be encouraged to tell the story in your own words while remaining faithful to the scriptural account. When scripture records the story in more than one place, you may want to harmonize the accounts (including extra details found in each account). Let the students know where they can find the additional details in the Bible.

Discuss the story: While reviewing the major events of the story, discuss the possible applications to the students' lives. Ask questions that help make them think about the story and show that they understand the story.

APPLICATION

- When coming into God's presence in prayer, don't boast of your deeds.
- When coming into God's presence in prayer, make Jesus your claim to glory, “In the cross of Christ I glory ...”
- Beware of teachers and organizations that would lead you to exalt yourself.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Psalms 51:9 - "Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities."

Psalms 50:15 - "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

Middle

Psalms 51:9 - "Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities."

Psalms 50:15 - "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

Psalms 51:17 - "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise."

Upper

Psalms 51:9 - "Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities."

Psalms 50:15 - "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

Psalms 51:17 - "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise."

Luke 14:11 - "For whoever exalts himself shall be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Romans 3:23-24 - "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

HYMN CHOICES

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less - TLH #370

Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness - TLH #371

Just as I Am, without One Plea - TLH #388

Pharisee & Publican

Luke 18:9-14



The Story

When Jesus lived on this earth, He used special stories to teach people certain truths about the kingdom of God. Jesus used examples from everyday life in these stories which are called parables.

One day Jesus told a parable to warn the Pharisees that they couldn't be saved by doing good things for God. The Pharisees were a group of people who were very proud. They thought they were better than other people. They also thought that they didn't need a Savior.

This is Jesus' parable: There were two men who went to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who thought that he kept God's law. The other man was a publican or a tax collector. In those days many tax collectors cheated people by collecting too much money from them. They were hated by most people.

The Pharisee stood where everyone could see him when he prayed. He thanked God that he wasn't like other men who did sinful things like lying and stealing. He also thanked God that he wasn't like the

tax collector. Then he told God about all the good things he did. He fasted or went without food twice a week and gave a lot of money to the church. He didn't ask God to forgive his sins because he didn't think he had sinned.

The tax collector realized that he was sinful. He was ashamed of the things he had done. He stood way off in a corner and hung his head in shame. He prayed, "Lord be merciful to me, a sinner."

After Jesus had told this parable, He said, " Now I tell you, this man (the tax collector) went home with his sins forgiven. For everyone who brags about himself before God will be humbled or brought down, but whoever humbles himself and admits his sinfulness will be lifted up or honored by God."

In this parable, Jesus wants to teach us that we are all sinful and not better than other people. We can not do anything to earn forgiveness or salvation. It is only through Jesus' death that we can be saved.

The Pharisee trusted in himself. The Publican looked to Jesus for salvation.

Believers rely only on Jesus for salvation.

Activity One - When we pray, Jesus wants us to come to Him with a heart that is humble and not proud. We ask Jesus to create in us a clean heart. That means we want Him to forgive our sins and help us to live as His children.

Color this spiral heart and cut on the dotted lines. Tie a string through the hole in the middle of the small heart. It can be hung from your ceiling to remind you of Jesus' love for you.



Activity Two - Find the letter that goes with the number below each blank, and you will have the words that we should pray. Use the code in the box.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	I	L	M	N	O	R	S	T	U	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
7	12	4				2	5		10	5	13	3	8	6	16	9
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
15	12		10	12		1			14	8	11	11	5		13	

Passages

Luke 18:13b - God be merciful to me a sinner!

Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Hymn - WS #709 v. 1, 3, 4

God loves me dearly, grants me salvation;
 God loves me dearly, loves even me.
 Therefore I'll say again:
 God loves me dearly,
 God loves me dearly, loves even me.

He sent forth Jesus, my dear Redeemer;
 He sent forth Jesus and set me free.
 Therefore...

Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;
 Jesus, my Savior, paid all I owed.
 Therefore...

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, keep us from being proud like the Pharisee. We sin every day and need your forgiveness just like the tax collector. Make us realize that it was our sins that caused Jesus' suffering and death. Please forgive all our sins for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Pharisee & Publican

Luke 18:9-15



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thanked God that he wasn't like the tax collector. Then he told God about all the good things he did. He fasted, or went without food, twice a week and gave a lot of money to the church. He didn't ask God to forgive his sins because he didn't think he had sinned.

The tax collector realized that he was sinful. He was ashamed of the things he had done. He stood way off in a corner and hung his head in shame. He prayed, "Lord be merciful to me, a sinner."

After Jesus had told this parable, He said, " Now I tell you, this man (the tax collector) went home with his sins forgiven. For everyone who brags about himself before God will be humbled, or brought down, but whoever humbles himself and admits his sinfulness, will be lifted up or honored by God."

In this parable, Jesus wants to teach us that we are all sinful and not better than other people. We cannot do anything to earn forgiveness or salvation. It is only through Jesus' death that we can be saved.

The Pharisee trusted in himself. The Publican looked to Jesus for salvation.

Activity One - Place an X in front of the best ending for each sentence.

1. The Pharisee was ...

a. _____ better than other people.

c. _____ a sinner.

b. _____ merciful to the tax collector.

2. The Pharisee told God ...
 - a. _____ about the good things he did.
 - b. _____ about his sin.
 - c. _____ about how good the tax collector was.

3. The tax collector asked God to ...
 - a. _____ notice how good he was.
 - b. _____ take away his sins.
 - c. _____ punish him for his sins.

4. The man who was forgiven was ...
 - a. _____ the Pharisee.
 - b. _____ the tax collector.

5. The Pharisee was as sinful as the tax collector because ...
 - a. _____ all people are sinful in their hearts.
 - b. _____ he did not go to the temple.
 - c. _____ he prayed too loudly.

6. God wants us to ...
 - a. _____ confess our sins.
 - b. _____ make believe that we have no sins.
 - c. _____ tell Him that we are better than most people.

7. When we have done something wrong, God wants us to ...
 - a. _____ run away.
 - b. _____ say that someone else did it.
 - c. _____ ask for forgiveness.

8. Our sins are taken away ...
 - a. _____ by what we do.
 - b. _____ by what Jesus did for us.
 - c. _____ by waiting until people forgive us.

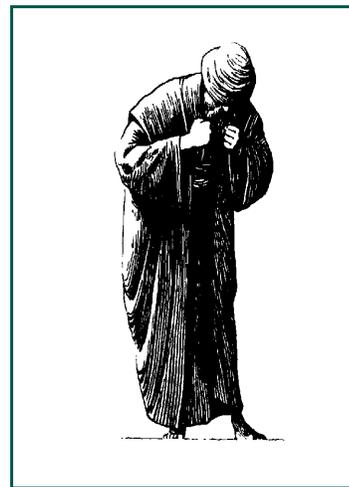
Believers rely only on Jesus for salvation.

Pharisee & Publican

Luke 18:9-15

How would you feel if a homeless person or a drug addict came into your church on a Sunday morning and sat next to you? Would you feel like moving to different place, or would you be glad that he/she had come to your church? Sometimes Christians feel that they are better than other people.

Today we will hear a parable in which Jesus showed the Pharisees that they could not be saved by the outwardly good lives they lived. True righteousness comes only through faith in Jesus and His death which paid for our sins.



Prayer

Just as I am without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come. Amen

The Pharisee and the Publican Luke 18: 9 -14

Luke 18:9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: {10} "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. {11} "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men; extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. {12} 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'

{13} "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise 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, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Outer Aim - The Pharisee trusted in himself. The Publican looked to Jesus for salvation.



What the Story Tells Us - Complete the sentences. Place an X in front of the best ending for each sentence.

1. The Pharisee was ...
 - a. _____ better than other people.
 - b. _____ merciful to the tax collector.
 - c. _____ a sinner.
2. The Pharisee told God ...
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4. The man who was forgiven was ...
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 - a. _____ by what we do.
 - b. _____ by what Jesus did for us.
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Passages

1 John 1:8 - If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.

Psalms 51:17 - The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and
a contrite heart - these, O God, You will not despise.

Romans 3:23 -24 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Hymn - TLH #370

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.
On Christ the solid Rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

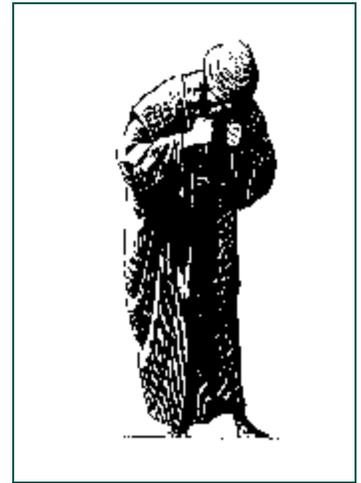
Teach us to be humble and aware of our sinfulness and need of a Savior just like
the tax collector. Keep us from trusting in ourselves and help us to look to You for
forgiveness and salvation. Every day we need to come to You and say, "Lord be
merciful to me, a sinner." Amen

Pharisee & Publican

Luke 18

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And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
Just as I am and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come. Amen

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give tithes of all that I possess.'

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{14} "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the blank with the correct word.

1. Jesus told this parable to _____ people.
(righteous, poor, self-righteous)



2. Most people thought the Pharisees were _____ people.
(God-fearing, wicked, humble)

3. Most people thought that all tax collectors were _____.
(honest, wicked, good)

4. In his prayer, the Pharisee asked God for _____.
(mercy, forgiveness, nothing)

5. The Pharisee fasted twice a _____.
(week, month, year)

Outer Aim - The Pharisee trusted in himself. The Publican looked to Jesus for salvation.

What God's Word Tells Us - Use your Bible to answer the following.

1. What does the Bible say to people like the Pharisees and even some Christians who are proud of their works? *James 4:6b*.

2. Which of the following Bible passages describes people like the tax collector? Explain your choice.

Matthew 5:6 Proverbs 10:14 Psalm 51:17 Romans 2:11

3. Which of the following Bible passages expresses the same thought as the last few words of the parable - Luke 18:14b? Defend your choice.

1 Peter 5:5b Proverbs 16:8 Matthew 5:8

Inner Aim - Believers rely only on Jesus for salvation.

Your Turn

Why do you think the Pharisee did even more that God had commanded?

What did the Pharisee think of himself in comparison with others such as the tax collector?

How did the tax collector show that he knew he was a sinner? Name three things that he did.

On what did the tax collector base his hope of forgiveness?

_____ his good works _____ the mercy of God _____ his humility

Passages

1 John 1:8 - If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Psalm 51:17 - The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart - these, O God, You will not despise.

Romans 3:23 -24 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Hymn - TLH #370

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.
On Christ the solid Rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, teach us to be humble and aware of our sinfulness and need of a Savior just like the tax collector. Keep us from trusting in ourselves and help us to look to You for forgiveness and salvation. Every day we need to come to You and say, "Lord be merciful to me a sinner." Amen