

September 1, 2024 AM – Pastor Kevin Olivier  
**Luke 18:9-14** – “Humble Yourself to Be Exalted”

- A. You will not do well with most things in life unless you can humble yourself to learn from an instructor.
- B. There is a huge difference when comparing the humility of John the Baptist to the pride of the Pharisees.

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| You are to humble yourself so that God exalts you. | I. THE PHARISEE’S FALSE TRUST AND CONTEMPT<br>II. GOD’S MERCY TO THE HUMBLE AND REPENTANT |
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**I. THE PHARISEE’S FALSE TRUST AND CONTEMPT** → **vv9-12**

- A. The Pharisee had a false trust in his own supposed righteousness.
  - 1. He really did not consider himself a sinner in God’s sight, especially because he was comparing himself to someone he viewed as a notorious sinner.
    - a. That can be a modern temptation for us as well.
    - b. Some of us may consider ourselves righteous before God because we regularly attend church services. This Pharisee was likely in the synagogue every Sabbath unlike others.
  - 2. The Pharisee considered himself righteous because of his religious practices. He fasted twice a week and paid tithes of all his increase.
    - a. What about the rest of the moral law? Did he ever look upon a woman who was not his wife to desire after her? Did he covet what was not his?
    - b. Concerning the hypocritical scribes and Pharisees, Jesus quoted **Isa 29:13**: **“This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me.”**<sup>1</sup>
- B. The Pharisee was also not pleasing to God because of the way **“he viewed others with contempt”** as sinners while neglecting to confess and to turn from his own sin.
  - 1. He must have forgotten the teaching of Solomon in **Eccles 7:20** which says, **“There is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.”**
  - 2. This Pharisee also neglected to use the rich words King David who prayed to God in **Ps 51** **“My sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight” (vv3-4).**
  - 3. We must be very careful that we don’t view **“others with contempt”** like this man did.
- C. Most of us would not look at an IRS agent with this same level of contempt as these traitorous, thieving tax collectors were. Consider a type of modern sinner who is notoriously wicked.
- D. Because of comparisons, this Pharisee exalted himself rather than humbling himself in the sight of God.

<sup>1</sup> Jesus quoted **Isa 29** as recorded in **Mat 15:8**.

## II. GOD'S MERCY TO THE HUMBLE AND REPENTANT →v13

- A. This tax collector had to be a Jew. Gentiles were not allowed in the temple; they were only allowed to pray in the courtyard of the temple.
1. He stood at **“some distance away”** rather than going to the prominent place of worship in the temple. He may have been standing just inside of the doorway.
  2. He was ashamed of his sin. That is why he would not lift his eyes to heaven.
    - a. This was the very opposite of the Pharisee's pride.
    - b. **Ps 51:17** says, **“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.”**
  3. The tax collector hated his sin. That is why he was beating his chest.
  4. We are not told what happened during the days and weeks after this event, yet one would hope The tax collector changed his ways toward a greater obedience unto God.
- B. On a future Lord's Day, we will learn of a Jewish tax collector named Zaccheus in **Lu 19**.
1. Most Jews treated tax collectors with contempt because they were considered as terrible sinners and traitors. They were notorious for taking more for themselves than was allowed.
  2. Upon his conversion, Zaccheus made four-fold restitution for all those he defrauded.
  3. Zaccheus humbled himself, confessed his sin, and turned from it with an endeavor after new obedience.
- C. Jesus gave us His conclusion when He compared the pharisee to the tax collector who both prayed in the temple. →v14
1. There are key aspects of humility we must have to exercise a saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - a. We be humble enough to confess that we are sinners in God's sight.
      - 1) Paul the apostle, one of the godliest men who ever lived, still called himself the foremost or chief sinner of all (**1 Tim 1:15**).
      - 2) In **Rom 7:15**, Paul called himself a **“wretched man”** because of his remaining sin nature that he continued to fight with.
    - b. We must humble ourselves to confess that we cannot save ourselves even by our best works. **Isa 64:4** says that our righteousness is like filthy rags. We need the great exchange which Martin Luther preached. He said the gospel teaches that true Christians are **“at the same time righteous and sinner.”**<sup>2</sup>
    - c. If your pride keeps you from doing this, ask God the Holy Spirit to break-up that hard ground of your heart so that seed of His Word can be planted to then grow up and produce much fruit. You must be humbled for God to exalt you with eternal life.
  2. **1 Jn 1:9-10** says, **“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.”**
- D. God does want your humble confession of sin, but He also wants to see your repentance— your endeavor to turn from your sin.
1. Your repentance will not be perfect, yet if you belong to Him, you will fight sin rather than tolerate it.
  2. Sin shall no long have dominion over you. You will no longer be a slave of sin but a slave of righteousness.

Review, further application, and conclusion:

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/great-exchange>