

whose
side
are you
on?

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**Believe it or not, prayer isn't
automatically acceptable to God**

God is looking at our heart condition 24/7

**A famous story awaits us, filled with
extremely valuable lessons to be learned**

Luke 18:9 King James Version

9 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

**Christ identifies and directs the beginning
of this parable to
(3) types of self-centered people**

**Those who trust in themselves, are self-
sufficient, and have no need for anyone
else**

(Pride)

1 Corinthians 8:2 King James Version

2 And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.

Galatians 6:3 King James Version

**3 For if a man think himself to be something,
when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.**

Proverbs 26:12 King James Version

**12 Seest thou a man wise in his own
conceit? there is more hope of a fool
than of him.**

**Those who are self-righteous.
This differs from self-sufficient,
and falls into 2 categories**

**Those who feel they're good enough
for God as they are**

**They believe God won't reject them no
matter what**

**They know they do wrong but enough
good will "makeup" for it**

**MOST PEOPLE FALL INTO THIS
CATEGORY!!!!!!**

**Those who are self-conscious and
feel the need to do good works**

**They feel "good works"
will secure the favor of God**

**They feel "good works" are what
make them good and righteous**

**GOD CAN'T BE BOUGHT
OR
BRIBED!!!**

Matthew 5:20 King James Version

20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Romans 3:20 King James Version

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

2 Timothy 1:9 King James Version

9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Those who despise others

They act as if they're better than everyone else

They criticize and neglect the

poor/unfortunate/homeless/derelict/etc..

Acts 13:41 King James Version

41 Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.

Romans 2:4 King James Version

4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

**IT IS THESE GROUPS/TYPES OF PEOPLE,
WHOM JESUS DIRECTS THE UPCOMING
PARABLE TOWARDS**

Luke 18:10 King James Version

10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

2 men praying in the temple

**WHO WERE THEY,
AND WHY WERE THEY THERE??**

Pharisee:

- Strictest religious sect of the day**
- He was expected to be there**
- He came to the temple with the wrong motivation.....**

TO IMPRESS

**HOW MANY PEOPLE COME TO CHURCH
LOOKING TO IMPRESS?**

CHURCH IS NOT NEW YORK FASHION WEEK!!!!!!

Publican:

- Tax collector**
- Despised by his own people,
considered a traitor**
- He had no doubt or illusions about
his own sins and faults**

BOTH MEN CAME TO CHURCH TO SEEK GOD!!!!

**THEY WERE IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT
TIME!!!!**

Luke 18:11-12 King James Version

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

A 34-WORD PRAYER.....

5 OF THOSE WORDS ARE “I”

RIGHT FROM THE START WE SEE THE PROBLEM!!!!

“stood and prayed thus with himself”

**THE PHARISEE'S PRAYERS WEREN'T
GOING UP TO GOD....**

**THEY WERE PART OF THIS
PERFORMANCE!!!!**

**HE WASN'T A HOLY MAN AT ALL.....
HE WAS AN ENTERTAINER**

**HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU KNOW
THAT LOVE TO PUT ON A
PERFORMANCE???**

Where was his worship?

Where was his communion?

John 9:31 (KJV)

31 Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

Proverbs 28:9 (KJV)

9 He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

Micah 3:4 (KJV)

**4 Then shall they cry unto the Lord,
but he will not hear them: he will
even hide his face from them at that
time, as they have behaved
themselves ill in their doings.**

**His reason for feeling righteous??
“....I am not as other men are.....”**

He thanked God specifically for keeping him from public/scandalous sins

→ Specifically calling out extortioner/adulterer/betrayer/unjust

**To top it all off, he mentions his
fasting ritual and tithe giving**

**Christ condemns fasting when it is seen as
a way of meriting God's favor, or when
publicized through boasting display**

This Pharisee boasts about exceeding God's law when it comes to fasting and tithing

**THERE ARE (2) WRONG WAYS TO
LIFT OURSELVES UP**

1.

NUMBERING OUR GOOD POINTS

2.

NUMBERING THE FAULTS OF OTHERS

**SOME PEOPLE ONLY FEEL GOOD WHEN
PUSHING OTHERS DOWN!!!!**

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE LIKE THAT???

**Hard truth: they criticize others because
they can't stand to look in the mirror
and face themselves!!!!**

**THE PHARISEE WANTED TO PUSH THE
PUBLICAN DOWN.....**

GOD IS GOING TO LIFT HIM UP!!!!!

Luke 18:13-14 (KJV)

13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon 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 every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Evidence of humility and repentance

He “stood off” because of the shame/embarrassment/isolation he felt

**He wouldn't "lift up" his eyes to heaven
because of the guilt in his heart, and not
feeling worthy of forgiveness**

**He “smote upon his breast”
showing his internal anger and
disappointment towards himself**

James 4:10 (KJV)

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Psalm 34:18 (KJV)

18 The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Isaiah 57:15 (KJV)

15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

**THE PUBLICAN REFERS TO HIMSELF
AS A SINNER**

**THE PHARISEE REFERS TO HIMSELF
AS THE ONLY RIGHTEOUS ONE**

ONE MAN ADVERTISES HIS MERIT

ONE MAN AGONIZED FOR MERCY

WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

THE CHOICE IS YOURS SAINTS!!!

BE SURE TO CHOOSE WISELY!!!!!!



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