

“Two Men Went Up....To Pray”

Lesson Text: **Luke 18:9-14.**

I. The Two Men.

– Similarities Of The Two:

- Both Went Into The Temple To Pray. **Matthew 21:13; Acts 3:1.**
- Both Were Jews. - Both Were Religious. - Both Called Upon God In Prayer.
- But From Two Very Different Attitudes!

– The Pharisee.

- He Represented A Very Strict/Zealous Religious Sect.
- Josephus Estimated Them To Be At About 6,000 In Number.
- The Term Pharisee Means “Separated Ones.”
- The Pharisees Started Out Of A Need To Get Back To Strict Observance Of The Law Of Moses (Approximately 160-143 B.C.).
- But Had Developed Several Problems In Their Service To God:
 1. Human Traditions **Mark 7:9.**
 2. Hypocrisy **Matthew 23:2-5.**
 3. Religious Pride **Matthew 23:6-7.**

– The Publican.

- He Was A Tax Collector Working For The Roman Government.
- Tax Collectors Were Often Greedy And Dishonest **Matthew 5:46; 18:17.**
- They Were Despised By The Religious Leaders **Matthew 9:11; 11:19; Luke 5:30.**
- Matthew (**Mark 2:14**) And Zaccheus (**Luke 19:2-4**) Were Both Tax Collectors.
- Despite Their Sins, Some Still Seemed To Have A Good Heart of Repentance. **Luke 3:12-13; Mark 2:15; Luke 19:8-10; Matthew 21:31.**

II. The Two Prayers.

– The Pharisee’s Prayer.

- **Verse 9** Is The Key To Understanding His Prayer in **Verses 11-12.**
- He Is Full Of Pride For His Religious Service **Luke 17:10; Matthew 23:12.**
- Not Only That, He Despises Others **Luke 16:15.**
- He Was Blind To His Own Sins **Matthew 23:16 and 24; Matt. 7:1-5; 1 John 1:10.**
- Did He Really Feel That He Needed Anything From God?

– The Tax Collector’s Prayer.

- A Prayer Out Of True And Genuine Humility (**vs. 13**).
- He Confessed His Sin To God In His Prayer- **1 John 1:9; Proverbs 28:13; James 5:16.**
- Simple And To The Point Of His Greatest Need— God’s Mercy!

III. The Two Results.

- The Pharisee Was Not Justified Before God (**Vs. 14**).
- The Tax Collector Was Justified Before God (**Vs. 14**).
 - He Acknowledged His Sin And Asked for Mercy. The Pharisee Did Not!
- The Warning Of The Dangers Of Self-Righteousness **Romans 2:17-20.**
 - How Shall We View This Danger? What Really Matters?
- What Does God Want In His People? **Psalms 51:17; Psalm 34:18.**