

*Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.*

**James 3:13**

## Store In My Heart

### 2Peter 1:19-20

And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

Remember the Word you have been taught. Even in the days of the Apostles there were those who sought to turn men away from the word using false teaching. Some were even saying that Jesus would not return, before Peter died. In his second epistle, written late 60s AD, shortly before his death, Peter urges Christians to keep focus on the message they had received from inspired men of God. That word was not from the mind of man, but from God through the Holy Spirit. This same message we need today.



# A Parable on Humility

## Mike Johnson

The "Parable of the Pharisee and Publican" is only recorded in **Luke 18:9-14**. Jesus pointed out that a Pharisee and a publican both went into the temple to pray. He then contrasted their prayers and attitudes.

The parable is addressed to *"certain which trusted themselves that they were righteous, and despised others."* The NIV says it was *"to some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else ..."* This would have certainly fit a description of what many Pharisees were like.

### The Pharisees

The first man was a Pharisee. The Pharisees were the main sect that existed at this time. They were characterized by haughtiness and arrogance. They sought, in a very strict way, to keep the traditions which had been passed down (note **Matthew 15:1-20**). They are mentioned quite frequently in the gospel accounts, and Christ had constant confrontations with them.

The prayer of this Pharisee was one that exhibited pride and a lack of dependence on God. **Verse 11** says that the Pharisee stood and prayed. Herbert Lockyer, in his book "All the Parables of the Bible," says of the word translated "stood" that it, "... suggests in itself a static and upright position of perfect security and self-satisfaction." The Pharisee prayed, *"God I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican."* The Pharisees went on to say that he fasted twice a week, and he gave tithes of all that he possessed. It might be noted that in his short 34 word prayer that he used the word "I" five times. It is clear that his prayer was very self-righteous and self-centered.

## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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## For Our Information

Ruben Keisler still has some problems with his feet.

Gloria Hurst's disc removal surgery was successful.

Will Atwood has blockage in his neck. They are hoping to resolve it with medication.

Amy Simpson is in Washington DC this weekend. Jonathan and the kids are also out of town.

Tonight we start in 2Samuel 22.

Wednesday we will start 1Thessalonians.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.



## The Publican

The other man was a publican which was a tax collector. The NASB uses the term "tax gatherer." The Jews were under the authority of the Romans at this time, and certain men would gather taxes for the hated Romans. These collectors were usually greatly despised by the Jewish people.

The prayer of the publican was one that exhibited humility and a need for God. Again, Lockyer says that the word translated "*standing*" suggests that, "he stood with a bowed heart and sorrowful countenance the crest-fallen attitude of contrition." The Publican would not even lift his eyes unto heaven. Instead, he "*smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.*" Jesus concluded in **verse 14** that this second man was the one who was justified.

## Applications

A general lesson from this parable is a realization of the importance of humility. **1Peter 5:5** says that we are to be clothed with humility, and **Colossians 3:12** says that we are to put on humbleness of mind. In the application of the parable (**Luke 18:14**), Jesus stated, "*... for everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*" However, a more specific lesson would be the importance of humility in prayer. Humility would actually be a condition of acceptable prayer. We would not want to pray, as the Pharisee did, with arrogance and with a self-sufficient attitude; we should be as the publican who prayed with humility and with an understanding of his need for God.

Another lesson that can be gained from the parable is found in the realm of self-examination. Paul said, "*Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves . . .*" (**2Corinthians 13:5**). The Psalmist stated (**119:59**), "*I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.*" Actually, in the parable, both men were examining themselves. However, the Pharisee apparently took a partial look. He may have excelled in some areas, but there were other areas in which he was obviously lacking, and he neglected looking at these. Sometimes we can be like the Pharisee in that we have what might be called a "sin list." We have certain sins on our mental list which we are not involved in, and we examine ourselves from this list. We then come up with a good report on ourselves. At the same time, we ignore other sins that we may indulge in which are not on our "list." Consequently, like the Pharisees, we come up with a partial, inaccurate view of ourselves.

(We should acknowledge our sinfulness before God as this publican did but going about with an air of self-righteousness, emphasizing to others our sinfulness can be just as prideful as the Pharisee in this parable. DLH)

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!