

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican

Luke 18:9-14

1. Relate the story of the parable briefly.
2. Who were they to whom Jesus spoke this parable?
3. What was the single purpose shared by these two men in going to the temple?
4. What do you know about Pharisees?
5. What was a publican?
6. Why were the publicans considered by the Pharisees to be traitors and extortioners?
7. How do you think the Pharisee knew the publican was indeed a publican?

8. How would you fill in these blanks?

One prayed with ease reflecting upon his _____

The other prayed uncomfortably in the realization of his _____

9. What was wrong with the Pharisee's prayer?

10. What is meant when Jesus said that the Pharisee "prayed with himself"?

11. What was it about the publican's prayer that made it one of few prayers Jesus ever commended?

12. What did the Pharisee receive as a result of his prayer?

13. In what did the prayer of the publican result?

14. What is the meaning when Jesus said the publican “went down to his house justified”?

15. Why is it an error to make the publican’s prayer a statement of what an alien sinner should do to be saved?

16. What quality in the publican caused him to go down to his house justified?

17. What quality in the life of Jesus do we see commended in the publican?

18. Why did the publican stand “afar off” from the Pharisee when he prayed?

19. How many words were in the Pharisee’s prayer? How many were in the publican’s prayer?

20. Is a short prayer better than a long one?

21. To whom should all prayers be addressed?

22. How did the Pharisees “improve” upon the things God required in the Law?

23. What maxim or rule did Jesus use to conclude the parable, one that he repeated often?

24. Is it possible that someone could attend the place of worship and go through all the forms and go home the same person he was?