

Parable of Pharisee and Tax Collector  
Luke 18:9-14

Have you ever or maybe still do consider yourself better than some people? You know what I mean, there are certain people groups, nationalities, etc that you think to yourself and may even voice it that you are glad you're not like them. In the spiritual area of life, you may be what some call "Holier Than Thou". Because you seem to be living a Godly life, you look at others who are struggling and think, "They know better than that, how could they."

Here is a sad thought. Most people who fall in this category don't know they are being Holier Than Thou but everyone around them realizes it.

What does Jesus have to say about the condition of life?

Read verses 9-14

Before you turn me off saying to yourself, this message is not for me, let me encourage you to think.

Think about how easy it is to look down our noses and condemn another person for what they are doing. Just because you don't struggle with whatever that person struggles with does not mean you are any better than them.

If we are honest, we have our own demons to battle. We just don't let anyone else know about them.

Look at how the Pharisee prayed. "God thank you that I'm not like these other people. Why I pay my tithes and pray regularly."

Never once did he admit he did not deserve what he had. Never once did he admit he had any struggles.

On the other hand is the prayer of the tax collector. All he says is "God show mercy on this sinner."

Jesus said the tax collector was justified before God. In other words, God made him righteous, clean, holy, right.

Which person do you tend to be? You don't have to be like the Pharisee. Just be honest and humble before God and others. Let God shine His righteousness through you. Then people will take notice of how important God is to you.

We also have 2 different attitudes of prayer in this story. Let me ask you, how is your prayer life?

Watch video

The Pharisee was much like the man in the video. He had an attitude of this is what I am suppose to do each day. Pray at least once a day in your quiet time, give thanks at every meal, and beg for God's help when you get into trouble. However, we really need the attitude of the Tax Collector. We need to come before God with a humble spirit, willing to admit our shortcomings, genuinely seek God's guidance in our daily life, and then allow God time to speak to us.

Today you can begin the change of attitude.

It may be that you have never welcomed Jesus into your life. If not, He is waiting for you to humble yourself and ask. He will gladly take up residence in your life and make you a new creation.

Maybe your prayer life is like the video. It seems like you say the same thing and your prayers only get to the ceiling and fall back down. Jesus is ready to help you change. Are you ready?