



**KINGDOM
COME**

9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, & treated others with contempt:

10 “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee & the other a tax collector.

11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

Luke 18:9-14

¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'

¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat 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 everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Luke 18:9-14

Don't Compare Yourself to Others — v. 9

“He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, & treated others with contempt.”

Righteousness: (צְדָקָה) Tzedakah: Means living in right, active, & compassionate relationships within a community rather than possessing a private spiritual status.

- Pharisee measured their righteousness against others
- Comparison can make us feel righteous without actually changing our hearts

Kingdom Focus: We don't measure ourselves by others
- instead, we look to Jesus.

Don't Build Your Identity on What You Do - vv. 10–12

“God, I thank you that I am not like other people...”

Judicial Justification: (לְהַצְדִּיק) Hatzdik: It does not mean to make a person morally good on the inside; rather, it means a judge declares a person "to be righteous" or "to innocent/just"

- Pharisee focused on their religious performance
- They were more concerned with what they had done than what God was doing in him

Kingdom Focus: Following Jesus is more than behavior
- it begins with the heart.

Let God Change Your Heart - v. 13

“God, be merciful to me, a sinner!”

Merciful: (ἱλάσκομαι) **Hilaskomai:** To make atonement for.

The tax collector prays- using the verb *hilaskomai* rather than the normal word for general pity/compassion -*eleeo*.

- Echoing the mercy seat on the Ark of the Covenant where sins were covered – (*Admission & Repentance*)

- The tax collector recognized his need for God
- He didn't compare himself or defend himself, instead he humbled himself

Kingdom Focus: Heart change begins when we recognize our need for Jesus.

Live From Humility, Not Comparison - v. 14

“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the heart." – Proverbs 21:2

“Pride comes before destruction, & an arrogant spirit before a fall.” – Proverbs 16:18

- Pride says, *“Look at how good I am!”*
- Humility says, *“God, I need You!”*

Kingdom Focus: Stop looking around to see how you measure up & start looking to Jesus to transform you
- from the inside out!

HOW DO I DO THIS? BEFORE YOU LOOK OUTSIDE ... YOU LOOK INSIDE!

“But seek first The Kingdom of God & His Righteousness, & all these things will be added to you.” - Matthew 6:33

“Being asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God would come, He answered them, ‘The Kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the Kingdom of God is within you.’” - Luke 17:20-21

“For our sake He made Him to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the Righteousness of God.” - 2 Corinthians 5:21

**STOP COMPARING
LET JESUS CHANGE YOUR
HEART
SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF
GOD**

“Humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less!” – C.S. Lewis

