

2017: Week 22

Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> 2017

*"Propitiation– A Big Word with a Great Meaning"*

**Luke 18:13**

<sup>13</sup>And the tax-gatherer, having stood afar off, would not even the eyes lift up to the heaven, but was smiting on his breast, saying, God be **propitious** to me -- the sinner! (YLT)<sup>1</sup>.

On Sunday John preached from **Luke 18**, highlighting the stark contrast between the prayers of a Pharisee and those of a tax collector. As is often the case with Jesus' parables, the context of the passage itself informs us as to why Jesus chose to teach this specific parable: "And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt" (**Luke 18:9**). Jesus wanted to illustrate the difference between approaching the Lord on one's own merit versus approaching the Lord based upon the Lord's merit. The juxtaposition of the Pharisee and the tax collector couldn't be any greater. Let's dig deeper into the passage this week and be transformed by the beautiful concept of propitiation.

### 1. "THE TEXT"

**READ Luke 18:9-14**

- Jesus was speaking to those who "trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt" (**18:9**). What were some of the reasons the Pharisee considered himself righteous before God? (see **18:11-12**)
- What can we learn about the inward attitude of the tax collector based upon his exterior body language as he was praying? (see **18:13**)
- What was the basis of the tax collector's hope for peace with the Lord? (see the last line in **18:13**)

### 2. "YOU"

- John explained how "propitiation" is related to an idea of being "satisfied," specifically in the Bible with God being satisfied. God's work of "atonement" and of being "merciful" is very closely linked with the term for "propitious." The reason God can be satisfied with any of us spiritually is because He is satisfied with the work of His Son, Jesus, at the cross. God is satisfied or "propitiated" with believers because they have appropriately responded to Him on His terms– by trusting in Him, and not themselves! The believer humbly clings to Jesus' work rather than his or her own merits to be at peace with God. When we hear the term "propitiation" along with the phrases "our sins" and "our standing with God", we should automatically think of Jesus' work at the cross. This should humble us, and this should motivate us.
- God's propitiation towards us through Christ is the basis for our justification (think "getting saved"), but it is also a reminder for how our sanctification should be occurring (think, "growing as a Christian). God did the work in saving us, and God wants to continue doing the work in transforming us... if we let Him. Does your life look like a life that is being transformed by God?  
If so, how is God working in you?  
  
If not, what needs to change in your life, so that God can work within you?
- When you pray, do your prayers look more like the prayers of the Pharisee or the tax collector?

### 3. "REMEMBER"

- **1 John 2:2** <sup>2</sup>And (Jesus) Himself is the **propitiation** for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world."
- **1 John 4:10** "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the **propitiation** for our sins."

**FAMILY PRAYER:** Dear God, thank you for being propitious towards me through Christ. Thank you for your mercy! Please work in my heart today, so that I am growing as Your follower. In Jesus' name, Amen.

<sup>1</sup> Young's Literal Translation (YLT). All other Scripture notations taken from the New American Standard Bible (NASB).