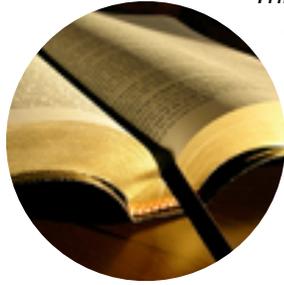


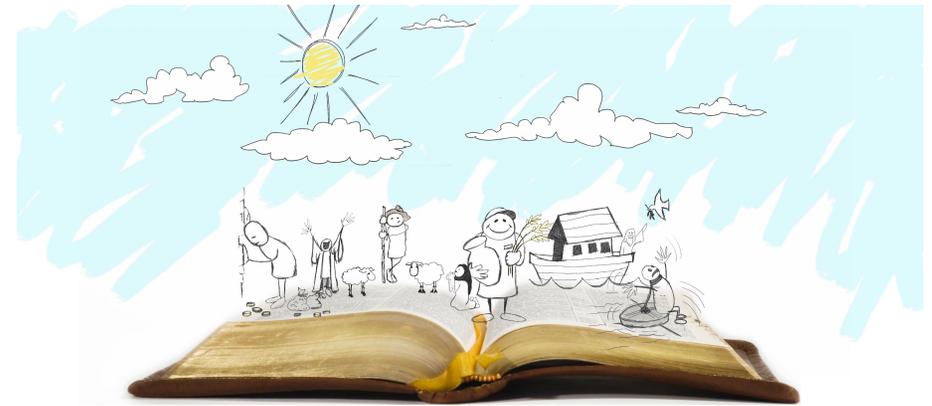
WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////



This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!)

We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends and your LIFEgroup. Although you can review it on your own, it will be most useful to you when processed with others!

1. Why do you think this parable is so popular?
2. What was the Pharisee’s biggest problem? Why is he like lots of church people today?
3. Why did Jesus use a tax collector as the other man in the story? What do you like about him?
4. Both men were telling the truth. What must precede the truth when you deal with relationships?
5. What was your best thought?



stories & parables

October 1 & 2, 2016 | Right with God | Luke 18:9-14 | Dennis Miller, pastor

TWO LESSONS FOR THIS SERIES:

1. In this series, it seems that every story or parable has a “SURPRISE,” or a twist ending, reminding us that things are not always as they SEEM.
2. We understand again that God’s view of most EVERYTHING is quite different than MAN’S perspective.

Luke 16:15 . . . but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.

THE CONTEXT

Jesus had just talked about finding true faith. And He often told stories to make the best points!

Luke 18:8 . . .when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

THE PARABLE

Luke 18:9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ 13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ 14 “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

THE PURPOSE OF THE PARABLE

Luke 18:9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:

1. Again, Jesus was dealing with RELIGIOUS people who thought that “man’s GOODNESS” could get you to heaven.
2. And again Jesus was dealing with the issue of PRIDE with religious people.

THE PEOPLE OF THE PARABLE

Luke 18:10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

1. There were two men who are POLAR opposites Jesus liked to use this kind of parable because people could UNDERSTAND. We’ve all SEEN these types of men.
2. Both of the men went to the TEMPLE to pray. This was COMMON and people who lived nearby would go as often as twice each day. It made a person feel CLOSER to God.
3. One of these men was a religiously TRAINED church LEADER, while the other was a DESPISED tax collector (and these guys were known for being “CHEATS”).

THE PHARISEE’S PRAYER

Luke 18:11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

1. The Pharisee stood by HIMSELF and possibly prayed TO himself.

— To stand by yourself is another picture of PRIDE.

— He MAY have prayed “to himself.”

Luke 18:11 “The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: (NASB)

Luke 18:11 The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: (NIV 1984)

— It would be assumed that he prayed ALOUD, since that was the common practice. (He wanted people to HEAR this!)

2. He thanked God that he was BETTER than other people (and, of course, GOD doesn’t have anything to do with that!)

3. Like most people who count on “GOODNESS” to get them to heaven, he compared himself to the WORST of people (robbers, evildoers, adulterers). These were COMMON descriptions of tax collectors in Jesus’ day.

4. He compared himself SPECIFICALLY to the tax collector.

5. Next he listed his RIGHTEOUS actions. He FASTED on the appropriate days (usually Monday and Thursday) and he GAVE tithes of everything.

Matt. 23:23 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

6. Most of all, EVERYTHING he said was absolutely TRUE. He was the person that you would want for a NEIGHBOR!

THE “PUBLICAN’S” PRAYER

Luke 18:13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

1. He stood at a DISTANCE because he felt that he didn’t DESERVE to be close to the holy Temple.

2. He would not even LOOK to heaven because of his SHAME.

3. He “beat on his breast (chest)” which was an EXTREME expression of SORROW.

Luke 23:48 When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away.

4. He PLEADED for mercy and acknowledged his SIN!

1Tim. 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

5. And again, what he said was TRUE. You might NOT have wanted this man for a NEIGHBOR.

THE POINT (AND THE SHOCKER!)

Luke 18:14 “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

As you take communion today, examine the ATTITUDE of your heart. Which of the two men are you truly most like?