



WHEN THE RIGHT GET IT WRONG

Sermon by Ray Reynolds (7/5/09 - AM)

Introduction: In this particular parable we learn about the importance of humility as a characteristic of Christian living. Specifically, we should note that forgiveness and blessings must be sought with earnestness and sincerity (Psalm 51). This parable also teaches us about the actions of a man while contrasted with his heart (I Samuel 16:7). Remember the Lord does not despise the righteous; instead he despises those who think they are righteous and, therefore, despise others. Let's study together. . . .

Discussion:

I. THE PHARISEE & THE PUBLICAN

- A. The Prayer Lives of Two Worshippers (18:9-10)
- B. The Pious Pharisee (18:11-12)
- C. The Penitent Publican (18:13)
- D. The Problematic Paradox (18:14)

II. THE PERSONAL APPLICATION

- A. The Danger of Religious Zeal
James 4:10, I Peter 5:5-6
"If we could buy him for what he's worth and then sell him for what he thinks he's worth, we could make a fortune."
"A man wrapped up in his own self makes a pretty small bundle."
"The person that sings his own praises is likely to be a soloist."
- B. The Deception of Good Works
Matthew 7:21-23, Ephesians 2:9
"God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called."
- C. The Depth of Grace
Ephesians 2:5-8, John 3:16
"The first test of a truly great man is his humility."
"To be humble to superiors is duty, to equals courtesy, to inferiors nobleness"
(Benjamin Franklin).
"The humblest citizen of all the land, when clad in the armor of a righteous cause, is stronger than all the hosts of error" (William Jennings Bryan).
- D. The Dilemma of Prayer
James 5:16, I Thessalonians 5:17
"Seek to understand and then to be understood." – Its all about perspective!

Conclusion: There is much to learn about the lives of these two men. What can we learn from the prayer life of the Pharisee and publican? Jesus says that the humbled will be exalted. He also says that those that try to exalt themselves will be humbled. It seems that when we try to lift ourselves up we can get into trouble. However, when we lift others up we are lifted up as well. What can we do to lift others up? What will we gain from it? If getting it right means you're doing it with the wrong attitude, what are you really accomplishing? Let's do our best and let God do the rest!

WORD OF THE DAY = **"Prayer"**