

Good News of Salvation in the Saviour’s Parables

This week – We continue our series of lessons based on some Parables of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Jesus said, “Everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”*  
*Luke 18 v14*

**Bible Readings for this week:**

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Luke 18v1-17 (God, be merciful to me, a sinner)	
Monday	Philippians 2v1-16 (Learn from Christ’s humility)	
Tuesday	Philippians 3v1-16 (Count all things as loss for Christ)	
Wednesday	Philippians 4v1-13 (Value the good things of God)	
Thursday	Psalms 10 (God hears humble hearted prayers)	
Friday	Psalms 34 (The Lord hears the cry of the humble man)	
Saturday	Acts 8v26-40 (Sincere, saving faith in the heart)	

**Important Thought for us Today:** Does God answer the prayers of everyone?

**No, He does not.** Many pray like the Pharisee did – with a proud, selfish heart; not really aware of Who God is. They come presumptuously, in their own righteousness, expecting God to grant all their selfish desires. They have no recognition of God’s Holiness.

**What is Acceptable Prayer?** This is the cry from a *‘broken and contrite heart’*, weighed down by the burden of sin. (see Psalm 34v18, 51v17). We can only approach our Holy God through His Son, Jesus Christ, Who died to take upon Himself the punishment for our sin.

**Have you prayed? But felt God has not answered?** Examine your heart’s motive, correct your approach, and pray again. When God sees your heart is right, He will answer.

**Hymn 562 – a prayer seeking that our love of Christ the Saviour will grow more and more:**

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| <p>1. Hark, my soul! It is the Lord;<br/>                 ‘Tis thy Saviour, hear His Word;<br/>                 Jesus speaks, and speaks to thee:<br/>                 ‘Say, poor sinner, lov’st thou Me?</p>       | <p>4. ‘Mine is an unchanging love,<br/>                 Higher than the heights above,<br/>                 Deeper than the depths beneath,<br/>                 Free and faithful, strong as death.</p> |
| <p>2. ‘I delivered thee when bound,<br/>                 And, when bleeding, healed thy wound;<br/>                 Sought thee wandering, set thee right,<br/>                 Turned thy darkness into light.</p> | <p>6. Lord, it is my chief complaint<br/>                 That my love is weak and faint;<br/>                 Yet I love Thee and adore;<br/>                 O for grace to love Thee more!</p>        |

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible

## The Pharisee and The Publican

- **Two Men – One Outwardly Religious, the Other A Repentant Sinner.**
  - **The Pharisee** – Proudly satisfied with his life – no acknowledgement of his sin. He had great pride in his own ‘works of righteousness’ and contempt for others.
  - **The Publican** – A hated Tax Collector. A recognised cheat. Yet he now saw himself as a great sinner in desperate need of God’s mercy and forgiveness.
- **They Both Went Into The Synagogue To Pray.**
  - **The Pharisee** – He was very religious - following every detail of Jewish Law. Frequently ‘praying’ - standing on the street corner, or in the Synagogue. He was very keen that people should see him praying and giving money.
  - **The Publican** – He had probably not worshipped God for many years, if at all. Up until now he had selfishly spent his fraudulently gained wealth on himself, and had lived his life without God, doing only what he wanted. **BUT** now he was convicted of his sin, angry with himself, beating his chest.
- **This World Sees Status and Wealth as Everything - God Is Different.**
  - God is far more interested in the sincerity of the heart behind our prayers.
- **How, and for What, Did These Men Pray? Which Prayer Did God Answer?**
  - **The Pharisee** did not really pray to God. He prayed to himself, about himself. There are **five I’s** in his proud prayer (sIn). He did not ask for forgiveness. Not once did he examine his heart against God’s 10 Commandments.
  - **The Publican** prayed, feeling unworthy, **“God, be merciful to me, a sinner.”** He went home changed, forgiven, justified, and exalted (lifted up to God).
- **What Can We Learn From This Parable of Two Men Who Prayed?**
  - **No One is Too Bad or Sinful to Pray and be Heard by God.**
    - We must come humbly acknowledging our sin in an attitude of repentance.
  - **God Promises To Hear and Answer our Prayer If We Meet His Conditions.**
    - Our prayer must be sincere and heartfelt - however short and simple it is.
  - **We Cannot Fool God - He Knows Our Sinful Hearts, Nothing is Hidden.**
    - God will not hear if we pretend that we are good and pray like the Pharisee.
    - We must recognise we are undeserving vile sinners in God’s Holy Sight.
- **Have You Ever Seen Yourself as a Sinner For Whom Christ Died?**
  - Our first prayer must be a humble request for God’s mercy and forgiveness, recognising that The Lord Jesus Christ took God’s wrath for us on Calvary. This is the first prayer God wants to hear from us. He will answer this prayer.
  - Pray sincerely like the Publican – **“God, be merciful to me, a sinner”.**

The Lord Jesus said, *“They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”* Mark 2v17.