



18 July 2021

Luke 18:9-14

Exodus 33:12-19; Psalm 103:8-18

A Superficial, Shallow Views

Do I Know the God of the Bible?

God Is . . .

God Is Love

God Is Gracious

- GRACE is the POWER of GOD exerted on undeserving sinners.
- GRACE is God's good will exerted on undeserving sinners.

God Is Merciful

- God's mercy is **great, abundant, abounding, rich**, (1 Kings 3:6; Psalm 86:13, 15; 103:8, 11; 108:4; Ephesians 2:4-5; 1 Peter 1:3)
- God's mercy is NEW every morning! (Lamentations 3:22-23)
- Mercy *presupposes* sin.
- Three kinds of mercy:
 - ① General. God's mercies bestowed on *all* men - believers and unbelievers. (Psalm 145:9)
 - ② Special. Temporal mercies bestowed on men despite their sins. (Matthew 5:45)
 - ③ Sovereign. God's mercies bestowed on His special people. (Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:4-5; 1 Peter 2:9; Titus 2:11-14;)
 - ★ This mercy is everlasting.
- Mercy, just like God's love and grace, are bestowed in accordance with God's sovereignty alone.

- "I will have mercy on whomever I will." (Exodus 33:16; Romans 9:15, 16, 18; 1 Timothy 1:12-13; Luke 16:24)
- Mercy, like God's grace and love, is undeserved.
- Mercy, like God's grace, is a gift that is given to the undeserved.
- **NOTHING obligates** God's to bestow His mercy on anyone!
 - ☆ Titus 3:5
- What is the difference between GRACE and MERCY?
 - **GRACE**: Receiving what we do not deserve — God's love and eternal life and all that these two have to give.
 - **MERCY**: Not receiving what we deserve — God's wrath.
 - ☆ We are all born "children of wrath, just as the others." (Ephesians 2:3)
 - ☆ God's wrath, not His love, abides on all unbelievers. (John 3:36; Romans 1:18; Ephesians 5:6; Revelation 6:16-17)
- ★ How do I know if God has had/bestowed/is bestowing His mercy on me?
 - ☆ God is merciful toward those who **fear** Him. (Psalm 103:11, 17)
 - ☆ God shows His mercy to those who love Him and keep His commandments. (Exodus 20:6; Deut 7:9; Neh 1:5; John 14:21, 23-24; 1 John 2:3-4; 5:3)
 - ☆ God shows His mercy with those **servants** who walk before Him with all their heart. (1 Kings 8:23)
 - ★ It is a great sin to presume of God's mercy without living your life according to His Word.

Who Are You in the Parable of the Pharisee & Tax Collector?

Two Men Went to Pray (Luke 18:9-10)

- BOTH came to the Temple to pray.
- BOTH spoke their prayers to GOD.
- **BUT** only ONE was JUSTIFIED (declared righteous).

The Pharisee (Luke 9:11-12)

- The Pharisee was a RELIGIOUS man.
- The Pharisee was a RESPECTABLE man in the community and Temple.
- The Pharisee fasted twice a week and tithed all that God had given him.
- The Pharisee appeared to be a RIGHTEOUS man.
- The Pharisee prayed a LONG prayer.
- The Pharisee prayed to be heard by others.

The Tax Collector (v. 13)

- The tax collector was a DESPISED man in the community and Temple.
- The tax collector did not appear to others as a RIGHTEOUS man.
- The tax collector prayed the SHORTEST prayer in the Bible – six words in the Greek.
- The tax collector prayed to be heard by God.

The GREAT Sin of the Pharisee

- The greatest sin of this Pharisee is that he compared himself with others – “God, I thank You that I am not like other men . . .” This is called PRIDE.
- He assumed that in God’s sight he was better than other men.
- He supposed that sin is measured solely by its quantity and weight.
- He did not consider “to whomever is given much much is required” - Luke 12:48.
- He did not consider that a sin of a true believer is a much more serious matter than a sin of an unbeliever.
- He EXALTED himself! • He TRUSTED in himself! • He DESPISED others!
- He DID NOT KNOW GOD! (Isaiah 1:3 Jeremiah 4:22; 9:6; Hosea 4:1, 6; 5:4; John 8:55; 1 John 2:3-4)

Do I Have A Pharisee-Like Attitude?

- Do I pray, “God, I thank You that I am not like this Pharisee”?
- Do I hold in my heart that I am better than other people?
- Do I hold in my heart that I am better than other church members?
- When I pray, do I pray to be heard by others or just God?
- Remember the second great commandment: Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” (Matthew 22:39)
- This commandment DOES NOT command, “Love your neighbor as he loves you.”
- The GOLDEN RULE: “In everything, treat people the same way you want them to treat you.” (Matt. 7:12) **NOT** “treat people as you want to be treated if they treat you the same way.”

The Tax Collector’s Prayer

- The FIRST word is “GOD”, the LAST word is “the SINNER” and “MERCY” is in between. (The definite article is in the Greek. See 1 Tim 1:15)

- The tax collector understood that he was a SINNER in the sight of God. Consider Genesis 6:5.
- The tax collector understood that he was no better than any one else. (See 1 Corinthians 4:7; 15:10)
- The tax collector understood that GOD was HOLY, HOLY, HOLY.
- The tax collector compared himself to GOD and not others. (Matthew 5:48)
- The tax collector came in HUMILITY to God.
 - ★ Humility is NOT thinking lowly of oneself. Humility is not thinking of yourself at all. (Consider Luke 9:23)
- The tax collector’s sin BOTHERED him GREATLY.
- The more we understand GOD and His LOVE the MORE hateful, distasteful, abominable, corrupt, ugly, wretched, polluted, etc. becomes even the “least” of our sins.
- MERCY was **EVERYTHING** to this sinner!!
- **BUT** this sinner understood that before God can show Himself merciful to any sinner He must receive a full satisfaction for His justice.
- The tax collector understood that what he was asking for was NOT CHEAP!
- The tax collector asked for NOTHING but MERCY – **he didn’t even ask for GRACE.** (See Psalm 51)
- The tax collector did not think he deserved anything from God!!!!

Who Am I? (v. 14)

- God’s mercy, grace and justification (declaration of righteousness) comes to those who approach God as did this tax collector.
- **EVERYONE** who exalts himself/herself **WILL BE** humbled (by GOD), and he who humbles himself **WILL BE** exalted! (Three times Christ promised this: Matt 23:12; Luke 14:11; 18:14)
- GOD comes near, heals, and forgives the broken and contrite of heart – NO OTHERS! (Psalm 34:18; 51:17; Isaiah 57:18; 61:1; 66:2)
- GOD gives GRACE to the HUMBLE – NO OTHERS. (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5)
- The Kingdom of God belongs to the HUMBLE – NO OTHERS. Matthew 5:3.
- A *loathing of sin* is a NATURAL response to those whom have received MERCY and GRACE. Ezekiel 36:26-32

LORD, Have Mercy on Me!