

Luke 18:9-14

How Far Do My Prayers Go?

Parkdale EFC – March 29, 2020
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Amazing Grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

1. What did John Newton mean when he referred to himself as a “wretch?”
2. Would you consider either the Pharisee or the Tax Collector to be “wretches?” If so, how?
3. List the “credentials” of the Pharisee.
4. Contrast the prayers of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector.
5. The Pharisee claimed to not be an “evildoer” (unrighteous). (vs.11). Was this fair? What did righteousness mean to him?
6. Note the three times that Jesus uses the word, “righteous.” (verse 9,11,14 (“justified” is to be “made righteous”). Comment on and contrast the use of these words.
7. What is the main point of this story for our lives?
8. **Application Questions:**
 1. What type of “wretch” am I? (see Romans 3:23-28).
 2. How am I extending grace and hope to others? (Col 3:12-14).
 3. How can I share this message of hope to others – at this time in our world?
 4. How far are my prayers going? On what basis/merit do I pray?
9. **For children:**
 1. Here is a link to some colouring pages for today’s theme:
<http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/pharisee-and-the-publican>
 2. Video about Parables: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XX-aAg4_U2Q&t=6s
10. **Closing songs**
 1. Come as You Are <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HELQyZNnR-g>
 2. Lord, I Need You <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LuvfMDhTyMA>
 3. Amazing Grace <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3yLV2M0rlc>

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

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.”

Luke 18:9-14 (NIV)