

**The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector:
The Spirit Needed for Prayer
Luke 18:09-14**

1 A parable of warning

- a. To the self-righteous
- b. To those who despise
or look down on other people

2 The scene:

Two men are praying in the temple

- a. One is a Pharisee
- b. One is a sinner

3 The religionist prays

- a. He stands - prays only with himself
- b. He thanks God
for making him what he is
- c. He rededicates himself -
he reaffirms his commitment

4 The sinner prays

- a. He stands “at a distance”
- b. He feels unworthy to face God
- c. He cries for mercy

5 The major lesson:

Justification

- a. A humble approach is heard
- b. A proud approach is not heard

9 To some
who were confident of their own righteousness
and looked down on everybody 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 up and prayed about himself:
‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men -
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 everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,
and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”