

## GRASPING THE HEART OF WORSHIP

Luke 18:9-14

9 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.”

### Introduction:

SEENZONED

“Seen full” meaning indifferent or ignoring our sins.

### Background:

*Pharisee - expert of the law (Torah), respected, faithful*

- serves God seriously by going without food from sunrise to sunset on Mondays and Thursdays and
- by tithing all their possessions
- keeping the moral and ritual commandments of the law.
- Common people admired them greatly.

*Tax Collector – outcasts*

- collaborated with the hated Roman oppressors,
- Fleeced/ tricked their fellow Jews and practiced all sorts of fraud/scam.
- The common people disliked them.
- Like, Zacchaeus.

\*\*Narrate the story line.

### Transition:

*Gently & humbly*

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. (NLT) (Galatians 6:1)

Each one of us has a God-given mission on this earth. Sometimes we stumble and are deterred from this mission because we allow sin to get in the way. Fortunately, we are not alone, God has blessed us with other believers to help us along the way. It is very important we humbly help others when they fall off track. Just think how proud God will be for helping others get back to their mission

## *Much Talk*

Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth shut. (NLT) (Proverbs 10:19)

Over sharing too much information, failing to consider others' feelings, dominating the conversation, demanding tone, boasting about ourselves, etc. Oh, how to count the ways our words can lead to sin! Solomon gives wise advice to anyone who closes their mouths long enough to listen. Be sensible, enough said.

**Plot Twist: This Parable is somewhat a trap. It has a tricky punchline.**

The disciples of Christ, after learning or hearing this parable, their default response would be: "Good thing I am not like that Pharisee." Or maybe we also share the similar reaction, "Oh, I am sure I am not like that Pharisee who looks down on others." If that was in your thoughts, then you have fallen likewise. You have judged and condemned the Pharisee without looking examining yourself first.

*Matthew 7:1-5, <sup>1</sup> "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. <sup>2</sup> For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

*<sup>3</sup> "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

Going back to the SEENZONED analogy. We have "seenzoned" many subtle sins in our lives. How "seenful" are you? (List of subtle sins)

## **Main Idea:**

### *1. Reverent Heart*

- Bowing down; adoration; worship (Illustration: Eastern and Western Monarchs)
  - You cannot touch the majesty.
  - You should offer a gift (meaning do not show up empty handed).
  - You should stand to attention. (Bow three times to show your respect and loyalty).
  - You should be wearing a proper attire
  - You should call the majesty appropriate honorifics.
  - You should not speak until the majesty speaks to you first.
- Jesus is King, we should offer the greatest respect and adoration to our King when worshipping Him. When praying, let us glorify Him with our words. Instead of always asking from God, first, utter praises and adoration to our God. (samples)
- Demanding Heart (read vv. 11-12)
  - Praying for a girlfriend (picture)
  - As if God owes you a lot. God does not owe you anything, instead, you owe everything to God. Hence, the proper response to God is a humble act of bowing, kneeling, and begging for His mercy, grace and redemption.
- Entitled Heart: I gave this; I did this (read vv. 11-12)
  - You would say, "I have been so busy with the ministry. I deserve this and that." As if God owes you and you need something in return.

- Self-centeredness; selfish ambitions do not bring you far to eternal places. Remember in Philippians 2:1-5, having the mind of Christ. It points to humility—a selfless kind of attitude. This Christlike character is the one that “values others above themselves”.
- Christ’s mind does not merely think about oneself but rather prioritizing the interests of others (v. 5). Paul then calls Christ’s followers to have this mindset. Think for the benefits of others; not for your entitled, prideful, conceited cause.
- Reflecting upon these thoughts, may we all have the mind of Christ. Thinking about the interests of others over ourselves. We may think about good things for ourselves but let us think better and greater things for our neighbors.

## 2. Repentant Heart (read v.13)

- Lord, have mercy
  - We should live in dependence on Him in our daily battles with our sins through prayer as we continually cry out to Him for His power to enable us to obey His will.
- Forgive me
  - The gospel is a vital gift from God not only for our salvation but also to enable us to deal with the ongoing activity of sin in our lives.
- Wrong response: blaming God
- Wrong response: not admitting your sins

## 3. Receptive Heart

- recognizing your need for forgiveness
  - Christ’s finished work helps us to admit that we are sinners, also to face our sins and energizes us to deal with our sins. God no longer counts our sins against us because He is for us
- Accepting Christ’s finished work
  - [Pray] as if it all depends on you and yet trust as if you did not work at all. Jerry Bridges’ Dependent Responsibility principle.
- Accepting God’s grace:
  - “My memory is nearly gone; but I remember two things: that I am a great sinner and that Christ is my Great Savior” -John Newton *Amazing Grace*

## Conclusion:

The Parable of the Kid and His Grandpa’s Duck (Pato)

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