

MONDAY 6.19.23 - Luke 18:9-14

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

⁹To 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. ¹¹The 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. ¹²I 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.”

Is it not strange how God’s ways are so often just the opposite of the natural human way of doing things? If you want to be saved, stop trying to earn it and just believe. If you want to be great in God’s kingdom become the servant to all. If you want to be exalted in God’s eyes humble yourself in the eyes of man. We all pat ourselves on the back from time to time and the praise of man feels good occasionally but remember Matthew 6: 3 tells us “But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” God sees your heart and He knows the acts of kindness you do in secret, and He will reward you for those acts. The praise of man is fleeting, the praise of God is eternal.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 6.20.23 - Romans 5:1

Peace with God, what a pleasant calming facet of a believer’s life. To read God’s promises and trust in their fulfillment does render us peaceful. But then what is the alternative? Prior to trusting Christ for salvation, we were all in enmity to God, that is our spirits were at war with him. But how does that impact this consideration today? This writer has believed the Word of the Lord since 1969, so what is the personal application of this verse today?

The answer lies in the numerous times that our own lives take a sinful path. The block in fellowship with the Lord is clear enough and if not remedied it shows up in various places in our daily living. Apostle John said that if we confess our sins God is faithful to forgive us. Jesus said that the peace that he gives is greater than all that the world provides. Being justified to God is the only way to know peace, true and lasting peace.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY - 6.21.23 - Galatians 3:6-4

What is your authority—the Word of God or the traditions of men? False teachers infiltrated the churches of Galatia and beguiled them into believing that they must adhere to the Old Testament Law to be saved. Paul seeks to convince the Galatian believers that they are justified—declared right with God—by faith in Jesus apart from obeying the Law. Paul reminds his readers that faith in Christ was their initial experience (3:1-5). Further, Paul demonstrates that justification by faith is clearly seen in the life of the Old Testament patriarch, Abraham. God justified Abraham by his faith—not by his works (Genesis 15:6). When we place our faith in Jesus to forgive our sins and give us eternal life, we—like Abraham—experience justification. Additionally, Paul points out that the Mosaic Law pronounces a curse on everyone who does not obey its laws completely and thoroughly (Deuteronomy 27:26).

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 6.22.23 - Genesis 22:15-18

Abraham trusted God so completely that he was willing to sacrifice his miracle child of promise unhesitatingly in obedience to God’s command. Of course, God provided a real sacrifice, a ram, and

Isaac lived a long, prosperous life as part of God’s promise to Abraham to make a great nation of him. But why was Abraham so willing to trust God? Hebrews 11:6 tells us that “. . . without faith it is impossible to please God.” Obviously, Abraham wanted to please God, but how did Abraham acquire this great faith and unwavering trust? In Romans 10:17, we learn, “. . . faith comes from hearing the message.” Abraham was in close communication with God. Today our faith grows as we fellowship with the Father through reading His Word and prayer. A strong faith sustains us in trials and blesses us in a close relationship with the Lord.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY - 6.23.23 - Habakkuk 2:4

Pastor David Platt says: “Listen to the truth of God, lean on the timing of God, and then live with trust in God. Maybe the most important verses of the entire book of Habakkuk, last part of Habakkuk 2:2-4 ‘But the righteous shall live by his faith.’ Are you and I going to live with trust in ourselves? Or are we going to live with trust in God?”

Prayer: Lord, I pray this over my life and over every person who’s wrestling with difficult questions amidst difficult seasons in their lives. Help us to listen to your truth. Help us to lean on your timing. Help us to live today and tomorrow, and the next day, and every day, until we see your face. Help us to live with trust in You, not in ourselves. We pray this in Jesus’ name... in the name of the One who has made our salvation a reality... in the name of Jesus, the Lord, and King who is worthy of all our trust... in His name we pray... Amen.


SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



June 19th – June 23rd

INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip  every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:

Monday's and Tuesday's readings will be a follow up on Sunday's message, "*Bewitched*" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on 6.25.23, "*Reverse the Curse*" with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE: "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." Galatians 1:3-4

SUNDAY MORNINGS – 9:40am

- Kids** CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
available during the 9:40 service
NURSERY (through Age 3)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
available during the 9:40 service
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** SUMMER QUARTER BEGINS *JUNE 4th*
LOCATION: B8-10 with Scott Naus
Explore the Bible - *Jeremiah and Lamentations*
LOCATION: B11 with Barry Wills
Masterwork - Beginning 6/4, a seven-week study, *The Good Life by Dr. Derwin L. Gray. Jesus came to earth on a mission of reconciliation. The invitation card is known as "The Beatitudes."*
LOCATION: B1-2 with Joel Day
Everything You Need - *Author David Jeremiah uses 2 Peter 1:3-11 to show you the path to spiritual and personal transformation.*

Paul asks a series of questions to help move the Galatian believers out of a not-so-smart predicament. These same six questions should be answered by every Christian.

Question #1—Who _____ you? (v 1)

- Attack #1—_____ attack against Paul
(Answered in chapters 1 & 2)
- Attack #2—_____ attack against the gospel
(Answered in chapters 3 & 4)
- Attack #3—_____ attack against the Christian Life
(Answered in chapters 5 & 6)

Question #2—How did you _____ the Holy Spirit? (v 2)

Question #3—Why aren't you _____ your _____? (v 3)

Question #4—Are you _____ by good works? (v 3)

Question #5—Is your _____ for nothing? (v 4)

Question #6—How did you experience the _____ ministry? (v 5)

Application:

Each of us has done some foolish things in life. Most of it is of little concern. However, it is of major consequence to be fooled by false teaching. It is detrimental to your spiritual life. So, be alert to false doctrine, keep trusting Christ, and look for guidance from the Spirit of God who lives within you.

SUNDAY EVENINGS – 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
Break for summer.
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
5th–8th Grade meet downstairs
9th–12th Grade meet upstairs
- Adults** DIVE DEEPER WITH DOUG
LOCATION: Worship Center

UPCOMING EVENTS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
"KEEPERS OF THE KINGDOM"

Standing Strong in Today's Battle for Truth

July 16 - 20, 2023 - 6:00pm - 8:15pm
Ages 3 - through 6th Grade

*TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY GROUPS OR CLASSES,
PLEASE USE THE CONNECT CARD IN YOUR BULLETIN. THANK YOU!*