

Luke 18v9-14

(1) TWO MEN WENT UP. V10

Good to go up Sunday by Sunday. Two men go up. But it is not how you go up but how you come down that matters. In v14 we are told that one went down to his house justified'. Justified a term to explain one of the blessings from God that we need and can experience. It means to be pronounced not guilty and accepted by God, given a righteous standing in his sight. Important in light of eternity how stand. So the most important thing is how you will go down to your house.

(2) ONE MAN STEPPED FORWARD V11 The Pharisee stood. He stepped forward to pray. Important to note 'he prayed with himself'. I'm afraid his prayer went no higher than the ceiling of the temple. Why? Pharisees received a bad press. 6000 of them. I suppose because of their hypocrisy. Trusted in their devotion to the law that ok. This man an example of a Pharisee. 'Thank God not like other...like this publican'. Meant tax collector for the Romans, the occupying forces.

There were three major fasts in Judaism in the year, (Day of Atonement, New Year, and for previous calamities), but the Pharisees actually also fasted twice in the week, on Mondays and Thursdays.

He did not just tithe the main crops but the garden herbs, Matt. 23v23.

Jesus says it is the prayer of one who trusted in himself that he was righteous, v9. But he did not realise he was not righteous enough, Matthew 22v37-39. "All"? No, have come short, Rom. 3v23, James 2v8-11 = to keep some and ignore others means you are still a transgressor. Romans 3 again in v20, 'deeds of the law no flesh...knowledge of sin!'

The one thing about the prayer is that there was no sense of sin and need. No state of soul is more dangerous than the state in which you are not conscious of your own sins. You must beware of measuring yourself with your own neighbours. What does it really signify that you are not like other men. How are you before God? Vile and imperfect. Jer. 17v9.

(3) ONE MAN HUNG BACK v13

He stood afar off – probably in the court of the Gentiles even outside the court of the women, definitely not in the court of the Jews.

The Pharisee provided a news update for God; the Publican comes with a convicted heart. The main point Jesus emphasised is that the tax collector confessed that he was a sinner. JCR 'This is the very ABC of Christianity'. This is where you start for heaven – you realise you are not going there! You have no claim on God! Guilty!

But the important point is the ground of his appeal 'on the ground of that sacrifice' be merciful. This is what have in Romans 3! The Wrong Way v20 for v22-23, sinned, come short. "The harlot, the liar, the murderer, are short of it ; but so are you. Perhaps they stand at the bottom of a mine, and you are on the crest of an Alp; but you are as little able to touch the stars as they", (Bishop Handley Moule,1894). The True Way v24 by grace WHEN WE DESERVE THE OPPOSITE. WHEN WE COULD DO NOTHING, God took the initiative and did everything.

CHRIST PAYS THE DEBT, 'the redemption' the debt of sin.

REMOVES THE WRATH God undertook to remove his own wrath! In love!

JUSTIFIES THE UNJUST v26 Old man in hospital. 'I would not like God to do anything wrong in saving me!'

Can be accepted. Note 'the one that believeth in Jesus' Repent, come believe, trust in what Christ has done!

(4) ONE MAN WENT DOWN V14 So this man went down to his house justified. How will you go home? The way you came up? Or justified?