

Standing With God

Luke 18:9-14

April 4, 2021

Luke 18:9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Luke 18:9

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:

Luke 18:10-12

"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'

I. Standing for himself, he played like he was righteous.

Separation was his strategy.

Luke 18:13

But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

II. Standing far off, he pleaded for God's mercy.

Separation was his burden.

“Mercy” – “Atonement for me.” “Pay for my sin.”

Luke 18:14a

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other.

Justified: “accepted by God”

Main Idea: Only a mercy that satisfies can send a sinner home justified.

Luke 18:14b

“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

III. Standing among us, he died to bring new life.

Separation was his mission.

Hanging by himself, he died though he was righteous.

Sent to die far off, he paid the price for mercy.

From humbled to exalted, he rose up from the grave.

Philippians 2:5-11

Christ Jesus, Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death-- even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Main Idea: Only a mercy that satisfies can send a sinner home justified.