

**Just Pray  
Have Mercy on Me  
Discover Church  
Mark Phillips  
7/23/23**

- How do you know if God is really listening to your prayer?
  - How can you be sure that your request is the type of petition that God likes to answer?
  - What kind of attitude impresses God?
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*“To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 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. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ “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.’ “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.” Luke 18:9-14*

### **Understand the Context**

1. The **audience**
2. The **setting**

*“May your eyes be open toward this temple day and night, this place of which you said you would put your Name there. May you hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place. Hear the supplications of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place; and when you hear, forgive.” 2 Chronicles 6:20-21*

3. The Main **Characters**

### **Ineffective Prayer of the Pharisee**

*“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. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’” Luke 18:11-12*

## **Five Reasons God refused to respond**

- **Self-promotion**
- **Self-centered**
- **Self-righteous**
- **Self-absorbed**
- **Self-sufficiency**

## **Effective Prayer of the Tax Collector**

*“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.’” Luke 18:13*

1. Without **pretense**
2. **Humble**
3. Did not **judge** or **condemn**
4. Called himself a **sinner**

*“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” James 5:16*

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*“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23*

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23*

*“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8*

*“If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.” Romans 10:9-10*

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9*

*“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.” Luke 18:14*

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**Understand the Context**

4. The \_\_\_\_\_
5. The \_\_\_\_\_
6. The Main \_\_\_\_\_

**Ineffective Prayer of the Pharisee**

**Five Reasons God refused to respond**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Effective Prayer of the Tax Collector**

5. Without \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Did not \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
8. Called himself a \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture: *Luke 18:9-14; 2 Chronicles 6:20-21; James 5:16; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Romans 5:8; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9*