



Prayer Emphasis Month

Chester ARP Church, January 2024

What is The Proper Posture in Prayer?



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.’

Luke 18:9-12

What is The Proper Posture in Prayer?



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 18:13-14

A Proudful and Self-centered Pharisee



- The Pharisee's attitude was smug and egotistical.
 - He called on God, but worshipped himself.
 - He thanked God for how great he, himself, is.
 - He praised himself at the expense of others.
 - He listed the faults of other people.
 - He boasted to God about his religious achievements.
 - He talked endlessly about himself.

A Proudful and Self-centered Pharisee



- The Pharisee knew nothing of humility, repentance, or love of other people.
 - His prayer was a soliloquy not a dialogue, which indicated that his relationship with God was one way.
 - He had no sense of needing anything from God.



A God-Centered Tax Collector

- Every thing about the tax collector's prayer is strikingly different than that of the Pharisee.
 - He positioned himself in a remote corner of the room where only God could see him.
 - He looked down to the ground because of his overwhelming sense of uncleanness.
 - He understood the glory of the pure presence of God.
 - He beat his breast in remorse for his sins.



A God-Centered Tax Collector

- Every thing about the tax collector's prayer is strikingly different than that of the Pharisee.
 - He pled for mercy.
 - He acknowledged that he is a sinner.
 - He approached God from a heart/spirit of worship and reliance upon God's mercy and grace for his salvation.



Jesus's Explanation

- Prayer, like salvation, is a matter of faith in Christ.
 - The tax collector went home with a restored relationship with God in Christ and the grace that comes along with it.
 - The Pharisee went home condemned in judgment because he already felt that his relationship with God was intact.
 - He had no idea that he needed God's grace.



Our Lessons

- Righteousness before God is by grace and is received through faith in Christ.
 - Our prayers will reflect our understanding of our need for God's grace.
- We must pray with humility.
- We must repent of our arrogance before God.