

# GOOD PEOPLE AND BAD PEOPLE

Pastor Brett Capaci

The Parables of Jesus : July 11, 2021

The parables of Jesus are about a God of grace who refuses to turn His back on people who don't even deserve a second glance from the Lord.

"He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and looked down on everyone else: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee was standing and praying like this about himself: "God, I thank you that I'm not like other people—greedy, unrighteous, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of everything I get." But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even raise his eyes to heaven but kept striking his chest and saying, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner!" I tell you, this one went down to his house justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

—*Luke 18:9-14 (CSB)*

1. The "bad guy" wasn't all bad.

"God, I thank you that I'm not like other people—greedy, unrighteous, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of everything I get."

—*Luke 18:11-12 (CSB)*

"There is no one righteous, not even one. There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away; all alike have become worthless. There is no one who does what is good, not even one."

—*Romans 3:10-12(CSB)*

2. The "good guy" wasn't all good.

3. Ultimately, there is only one who is good.

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"No one is good except God alone."

—*Luke 18:19 (CSB)*

"I tell you, this one went down to his house justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

—*Luke 18:14 (CSB)*

"And He [that same Jesus] is the propitiation for our sins [the atoning sacrifice that holds back the wrath of God that would otherwise be directed at us because of our sinful nature—our worldliness, our not for ours alone, but also for [the sins of all believers throughout] the whole world."

—*1 John 2:2 (AMP)*

"Sure, all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, but that hasn't stopped us from comparing distances."

—*David Zahl - Christian author, minister*