

# Do Not Be Self-Righteous

***“To some who are confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody 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 up and prayed about himself: “God, I thank you that I am not like other men—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 everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke 18:9-14)***

Self-righteousness; it is when people think about themselves they are something but in fact they are not. Self-righteousness is when you look to yourself and see everything right in you but in reality that is not the truth.

Self-righteousness is when you consider yourself upright but the other around you are sinners. This is happen when you adopt certain rules and you want to see others following them. When they will not follow these rules you will consider yourself righteous and higher than them and they are under you.

At the time of the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on earth there was the Pharisees group who consider themselves the highest level of the religious standard of the community; they consider themselves the first class; thinking of themselves the nearest people to God, and the only people who follow God. They were observing certain commands like bringing the tenth of their crop and whatever they earn and have to God, they fast twice weekly, but yet they fail to respond and obey other commands like love, showing mercy, faithfulness and practicing justice. The Pharisees in their obedience to certain God's commands they were blinded to look more to what God had said. In other word they have not grasp exactly what God is and what He really wants us to be.

To the contrast of the Pharisees was the group of tax collector. Those they were considered as the lower group of people who are far away from God because their job was to collect tax from the people. Some of them they were forcing the people to give more or they practice extortion. Therefore they were a detestable group in the society, and they were considered among the sinners.

But the Lord Jesus Christ came to save sinners, as He said, ***“it is not the healthy who need the Doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: “I desire mercy, not sacrifice. For I have not come to call the***

***righteous, but sinners.” (Matthew 9:12-13)*** He came to save sinners. He died on the cross for our sins and rose from the death on the third day by the Spirit of God. Those who believe in Him and trust their lives into His hand He transforms them; they will be changed into His likeness. Even to the worst of sinners Jesus can change them in a profound way, to be a new creation, a new person completely different from the past.

Now the difference between the Pharisees and the tax collectors who went to the temple to pray is not their religious or spiritual background that make them justified before God but the way how they approached God.

The Pharisee, the proud and the self-righteous in his eyes does not really prayed at all. He asks God for nothing. He thanked God to what he is, not for what God is. He did not see God's goodness, mercy and love. He was so self-righteous. For him is fit what the word of God says, ***“You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ but you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.” (Revelation 3:17-18)*** The Pharisee considered himself perfect because he did not look intently into the mirror, the word of God, that showed his defects, inadequacy, poverty and nakedness. Therefore he left God's presence with out justification. He fail to receive because he fail to repent; he fail to humble himself and fail to ask God mercy.

While the tax collector when he stood before God he came looking for mercy; asking a grace to be forgiven for the sins that he has done. He was clearly distressed and agitated by his sense of his own unworthiness and he pleads humbly not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ***“God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”***

***My dear and beloved: “God oppose the proud, but he gives grace to the humble.”*** In God's presence we need to humble ourselves, not to see ourselves more than we ought to be, as well as not to look down on others. Allow God's word and His Holy Spirit to search you. And as you humble yourself God will bless you more, ***“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled and he who humble himself will be exalted.”***

***My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I trust you my life. Lord I thank you for your word to me. Lord I plead with you, have mercy on me, a sinner. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.***