

# LUKE 18 vs 9

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Dr. Luke knew that even the chief priests conceded, Jesus **trusted** in God. Some **trust** in their riches for whom it is hard to enter into the kingdom of God – **Mark 10**; Paul was dragged to the edge of town and left for dead, that he might **not trust** in himself -- **2 Corinthians 1**, all the same word! Here is the reason why Jesus taught this lesson:

**9 And He spoke this parable**

**to those who **trusted** in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:**

**10 Two people** went to the temple to pray / the word is: **anthropos**... Jesus is talking about **2** individuals... they both went to the place where God promised to honor the requests of His people, in answer to Solomon's appeal 1,000 years earlier.

**the one a Pharisee** / who were viewed by the common folk as the paradigm of religious life,

**and the other a tax-gatherer** / a tax collector.. a despised and regularly reviled professional. Matthew who had once held that hated position... he is honored to write the first Gospel message of Jesus.

**11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus **to himself**** / Matthew Henry says, this guy went to the temple to pray, but forgot his errand!

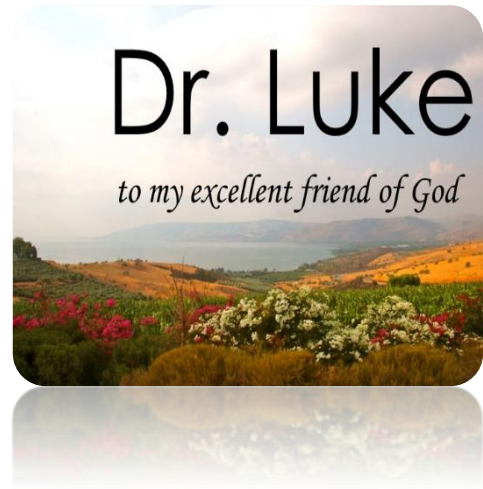
**God, I thank you that I am not as other people, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even this publican** / wow! Listen to all that empty prattle; praying to himself, he thought he needed nothing, no grace or favor from God; instead, he vividly imagined swindlers like ravening wolves or rapacious robbers; the unbiased violating justice; someone playing around with another man's wife; or even this collector of taxes and tolls for the Romans.

300 years ago, Matthew Henry commented: Suppose it had been so... all of it; and he had known it; what business had he to take notice of it? The ease we have to judge others, is spectacularly sinful isn't it? Dr. John Stott asked: Since when is the servant of another supposed to answer my judgments?

Having named a few vices he abstained from; the Pharisee adds some pious practices he currently engages in

**12 I fast twice a week** / wow! this artificial tradition was held in reserve for Mondays and Thursdays, when everybody was getting their family food preparations for the week; or before the Sabbath day of rest: on these 2 days, when the Pharisees paraded around the marketplace predictably in their white robes.

But remember: the Old Testament Law only required **1 day** -- **the Day of Atonement**, for the people to fast,



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**I give tithes of all that I possess** / yet another artificial tradition... Moses told us: tithes were to be distributed to societies: outcasts, widows, orphans and foreigners among us, and the Lord of glory, our Teacher; He isn't looking over our shoulder counting every 10<sup>th</sup> garden seed, spice granule or herb. And it sort of sounds like this guy is reading his resume, and applying for a job, doesn't it?

And we are left with the question: When is this very devout, very sincere, seemingly decent guy dressed in his white robe, when is he going to pray? Oh! He isn't... that was it!

Next, the publican,

**<sup>13</sup> And the tax-gatherer, standing afar off would not even lift up his eyes to heaven** / taking care of business with God; but out of view from the crowd; perhaps, ashamed,

**but was beating his chest** / it's interesting, the bible says: David's heart smote him! – **2 Samuel 24:10** Why? David tells us, he sinned greatly... and acted very foolishly against the Lord. Sometimes our heart will talk to us; other times we learn from this tax-gatherer, we need to talk to our heart – Matthew Henry; but remember: he also had gone to the temple to pray,

**saying, God be merciful to me a sinner** / God make reconciliation; propitiate for me, which God can only do. Only one adjective described this wretched guy; one word came to his mind: **sinful**.

Jesus says...

**<sup>14</sup> I tell you, this one went down to his house justified rather than the other** / he was officially declared by the Judge: **right**

**for all who exalt themselves will be humbled** / those who lift up and elevate themselves will be made low, and abased;

**and he who humbles himself will be lifted up.**

[The Lord is My Shepherd](#)

[His sheep hear His voice and follow Him](#)

[The Lord is my Shepherd](#) | [This is My Father's World](#) | [JESUS it is YOU](#)

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