

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Study to show "The Way of True life,"

Bible Study Outline

TOPIC: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

TEXT: *Luke 18:9-14*

Instructions: *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: Prayer is a kind of "Litmus test" (*a test for acidity or alkalinity using Litmus*) of our relationship with God. Prayers reveal who and what is most important to us. Prayers expose our innermost feelings and our perspectives of who God is. In this parable, the prayers of two men were revealed. If we listen closely, we can outline not only how God views their prayers but ours as well.

Discussion Questions:

1. From the text we read, how would you describe those for whose benefit Jesus tells this story (v. 9)?
2. Can you describe what your mind focuses on when you pray? The Pharisee in this parable addresses God, but to what extent does God occupy this Pharisee's attention? Explain.
3. On what positive and negative facts about himself does the Pharisee depend (vs. 11-12)? What does this reveal about his attitude to himself and to God?
4. Discuss the many times that the Pharisee compare himself with others (v. 11)? What does it do to you when you compare yourself with those you may possibly look down on?
6. Discuss the way the tax collector views himself (v. 13) contrast with the Pharisee?
7. Notice the positions, postures and gestures of the Pharisee and the tax collector. What conclusions can we draw from these contrasts in their body language? Explain.
8. What different positions do you think people should adopt when praying? What differences have you noticed while praying in any of those positions.
9. In the first century, Pharisees were viewed with great respect, tax collectors were despised as traitors. Why then was the tax collector justified rather than the Pharisee (v. 14)? Explain your thoughts.

10. In what ways are we tempted to exalt ourselves today? Describe how can we humble ourselves in our attitudes and actions especially in the church?