

Awe

Part 8-Standing in Awe When God Forgives

Luke 18:9-14

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector... Luke 18:9 NIV

Coming in for worship today, do you feel worthy of God's love?

Why did you answer the way you did?

Three thoughts about the Pharisee and Tax Collector.

- 1. The Pharisee STOOD proudly in God's presence while the tax collector humbly BOWED before God.**

The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed...but the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast..." Luke 18:11, 13 NIV

- 2. The Pharisee TALKED about his own righteousness while the tax collector BEGGED for mercy.**

'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' *The Pharisee*

'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' *The Tax Collector*

- 3. The Pharisee COMPARED himself to others while the tax collector LOOKED to Christ.**

God, I thank you that I am not like other people... The Pharisee

God, have mercy on me... The Tax Collector

How can we avoid becoming like the Pharisee?

1. HUMBLING ourselves in worship and prayer frequently.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 1 Corinthians 2:10 NIV

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. John 16:13 NIV

2. Avoid COMPARING ourselves to others.

‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. Luke 18:11 NIV

3. Daily keep our eyes fixed on JESUS.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. Hebrews 12:1-2 NIV

The End Result?

“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” Luke 18:14 NIV

Are you more like the Pharisee or the Tax Collector?

Do you need to be reminded of the truth about God’s mercy and grace?

Do you feel like you have to “stand at a distance” when approaching God?

What would it take for you to humble yourself today and seek God’s forgiveness?