

'Are You Wasting Your Time In Church?'

Parables – Part 7

Luke 18:9-14

July 25, 2010

❖ WE'RE WASTING OUR TIME IN CHURCH IF WE DON'T . . .

1. ACCEPT THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.

"Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, "God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'" Luke 18:9-12 (NKJV)

❖ This guy was fooled by his pride.

Truth # 1: You will never get to heaven based on the things you did not do.

"The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, "God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.'" Luke 18:11 (NKJV)

Truth # 2: You will never get to heaven based on the things you did do.

"I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess." Luke 18:12 (NKJV)

Truth # 3: You will only get to heaven by accepting what God's done for you.

"But—"When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. . . Because of His grace he declared us righteous and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.'" Titus 3:4-5, 7 (NLT)

❖ This guy was fooled by his prayer.

"The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself . . ." Luke 18:11a (NKJV)

2. ACKNOWLEDGE THE WORTHINESS OF OTHERS.

"The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, "God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.'" Luke 18:11 (NKJV)

". . . for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God . . ." Romans 3:23

"Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us." Romans 12:3 (NLT)

3. ADMIT THE SINFULNESS OF OURSELVES.

'And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.' Luke 18:13-14 (NKJV)

➤ Humility is a requirement for worship.

"The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit." Psalm 34:18 (NKJV)

"He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8 (NKJV)

➤ **Honesty is a requirement for worship.**

"... God, be merciful to me a sinner!" Luke 18:13c (NKJV)

"If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that His word has no place in our hearts."
1 John 1:10 (NLT)