

The Pharisee and the Publican

Lesson * 16 (COL 150-163; Luke 18:9-14)

A Profile of the Pharisee

1. The Pharisee had two fundamental problems: He _____ in himself and _____ others. (Luke 18:9)
2. The Pharisee always has a high opinion of himself and a low opinion of others. This is the reason why he says: “God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this _____.” (Luke 18:11). “Whoever trusts in himself that he is righteous, will _____ others. As the Pharisee judges _____ by other men, so he judges other men by _____. . . . His self-righteousness leads to _____ (COL 151)
3. The Pharisee is full of _____. He looks it, he _____ it, he prays it.” In fact, the Pharisee prayed with _____. (COL 150)
4. The Pharisee “judges his character, not by the holy _____ of God, but by the character of other _____. His mind is turned _____ from God to humanity. This is the secret of his _____.” (COL 151)

Note: When the prophet Isaiah caught a glimpse of the holiness of God, he immediately discerned his own unworthiness: “Woe is me! For I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.” (Isaiah 6: 5). Likewise when Peter met Jesus on the shore of the sea of Galilee, he said: “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” (Luke 5:8). When Moses met God at the burning bush he “hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.” (Exodus 3:6).

5. The Pharisee “is satisfied with a _____ that has to do with the _____ life.” This is the reason why he boasts that he _____ twice a week, and gives _____ of all he possesses. (COL 151; Luke 18:12)
6. Jesus spoke about the prayer habits of the Pharisee in Matthew 6:5: “And when thou _____, thou shalt not be as the _____ are: for they love to pray _____ in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of _____. Verily I say unto you, they have their _____.”
7. Jesus also spoke about the legalistic religion of the Pharisee in Matthew 23:27-28: “Woe unto you scribes and _____, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful _____, but are _____ full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also _____ appear _____ unto men, but _____ ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”

8. The apostle Paul spoke of the pharisaic spirit of the of his own people according to the flesh: “For they being ignorant of God’s _____, and going about to establish their _____ righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of _____.” (Romans 10:3).
9. The Pharisee’s case was hopeless: “The Pharisee felt no conviction of _____. The Holy Spirit could not work with him. His soul was _____ in a self-righteous armor which the arrows of God, barbed and true-aimed by _____ hands, failed to penetrate.” (COL 158). Notice here that the Holy Spirit accomplishes His work through the ministration of the angels!

A Profile of the Publican

1. The publican differed from the Pharisee in four significant ways: “And the publican, standing _____ off, would not _____ up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but _____ upon his breast, saying, God be _____ to me a sinner. (Luke 18:13)
2. The publican “did not compare himself with _____. Overwhelmed with a sense of _____, he stood as if alone in _____ presence. His only desire was for _____ and _____, his only plea was the _____ of God.” (COL 152)
3. Who were the first two historical representatives of the Pharisee and the publican? _____ and _____. What similarities are there between these two original prototypes and the characters in Christ’s parable?

_____.
4. Which disciple of Jesus was changed from the spirit of the Pharisee into the spirit of the publican? _____. (COL 152-154). Carefully follow the trajectory of Peter’s conversion experience.
5. What finally converted Peter from a selfish Pharisee into a penitent publican? “At that moment [when Peter denied Jesus the third time] Christ looked at Peter, and beneath that grieved look, in which _____ and love for him were blended, Peter understood _____. He went out and wept _____. That look of Christ’s _____ his heart.” (COL 154)
6. What are the greatest dangers for the human soul? “There is nothing so _____ to God or so dangerous to the human soul as _____ and _____. Of all sins it is the most _____, the most _____.” (COL 154)

7. Why is it dangerous to boastfully claim that we are saved? “Those who accept the Savior, however sincere their _____, should never be taught to say or to feel that they are _____. This is misleading. Everyone should be taught to cherish hope and faith; but even when we give ourselves to Christ and _____ that He accepts us, we are not beyond the reach of _____.” (COL 155)

Note: Our assurance of salvation should never lead to self-confident boastfulness. Jesus clearly said: “He who endures unto the end shall be saved” (Matthew 24:12). On the other hand, we can have present assurance of salvation as long as we are looking away from self and to Christ.

8. Which is the only way we can gain a true knowledge of ourselves? “In one way only can a true knowledge of self be obtained. We must _____ Christ. It is _____ of Him that makes men so uplifted in their own _____. When we _____ His purity and excellence, we shall see our own _____ and _____ and defects as they really are. We shall see ourselves _____ and hopeless, clad in garments of self-righteousness.” (COL 159)

Note: This principle is brought out in II Corinthians 3:18 where the apostle Paul tells us that as we behold the glory of the Lord, we are changed from glory to glory into His same likeness. That is to say, what we behold is what we become. If television is the central focus of our time, we will reflect the values of that which we spend our time on and our heart will be confirmed in its sin. But if we behold the purity and beauty of Jesus, our characters will be reflect Him..

9. Once we see ourselves as we really are, then we can ask Christ to empty us or ourselves. “But no man can empty _____ of self. We can only consent for _____ to accomplish the work.” (COL 159).
10. As Jesus empties us of self, good works will flow naturally. But, “All our good works are dependent on a power _____ of ourselves. Therefore there needs to be a _____ reaching our of the heart after God, a continual, earnest, _____ confession of sin and Humbling of the soul before Him.” (COL 160)
11. We must shun everything that would encourage pride and self-sufficiency. “It is Satan’s work to flatter. He deals in _____ as well as in _____ and condemnation. Thus he seeks to work the _____ or the soul.” (COL 161)

The Conclusion of the Story

1. We are told in the story in the Pharisee and the Publican that the publican went home _____.

Note: This is the only time the word “justified” is found on the lips of Jesus in the Gospels. Justification and forgiveness are the same thing. The publican had the righteousness of Christ credited to his account. What Jesus said was revolutionary in the context of rabbinical salvation theology. The rabbis taught salvation as a system of merits and demerits. The good and evil works of each person were all written in books as life transpired. After death the evil works were weighed against the good works. If the good works were weightier, the person was pronounced righteous and given the reward of salvation. This is why rabbis such as Shammai underlined that people must increase merit by giving alms, works of charity, fasting, studying the Torah, tithing, Sabbath-keeping, etc. In this system you could never be sure where you stood until the judgment. That a sinner with so many demerits could be justified and that he could be justified **right then** was unthinkable.

2. The life of one who has been forgiven can experience inexpressible joy: “But Christ dwelling in the soul is a wellspring of _____. For all who _____ Him, the very keynote of the word of God is _____.” (COL 162)
3. Thus, all a sinner needs is Christ: “As the sinner, drawn by the power of Christ, approaches the uplifted _____, and prostrates himself before it, there is a new _____. A new heart is given him. He becomes a new _____ in Christ Jesus. _____ finds that it has nothing more to require.” (COL 163)