

# The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector - Luke 18:9-14

*Topics:* Confidence, Fasting, Forgiveness, Humility, Mercy, Prayer, Pride, Righteousness

## Open It

- \* 1. How does it feel to be in the presence of someone markedly better than you at what you do best?
- 2. What feelings or attitudes do you have toward proud people?
- 3. How does our society regard the quality of humility?

## Explore It

- 4. To whom did Jesus tell this parable? (18:9)
- 5. Why did Jesus tell this parable? (18:9)
- 6. Who were the two men described in the story? (18:10)
- 7. What did the Pharisee do? (18:11)
- \* 8. What motivated the Pharisee to pray? (18:11)
- 9. How did the Pharisee pray? (18:11-12)
- 10. Why was the Pharisee confident in his own righteousness? (18:11-12)
- 11. Why did the tax collector stand at a distance? (18:13)
- 12. What does the tax collector's posture reveal about his own attitude? (18:13)
- 13. What prompted the tax collector to pray? (18:13)
- 14. How did the tax collector pray? (18:13)
- \* 15. What difference did it make how these men prayed? (18:14)
- 16. What does it mean that one man was justified and the other wasn't? (18:14)
- 17. What principle did Jesus stress? (18:14)

## Get It

- 18. What reputations did Pharisees and tax collectors have in Bible times?
- 19. What kind of people were Pharisees and tax collectors?
- 20. Who would be examples of "Pharisees" and "tax collectors" in our society today?
- 21. How do we judge people according to outward appearances?
- 22. How important are outward appearances in our culture today?
- \* 23. How do you approach God in your prayers?
- 24. What does this parable teach us about our prayer habits?
- 25. What enables us to be confident before God?
- 26. In whose righteousness should we have confidence?
- 27. In what circumstance have you wrongly exalted yourself?
- \* 28. Why does God honor the prayers of a humble person?

## Apply It

- \* 29. What specific steps can you take this week to cultivate a spirit of humility?
- 30. In what area of your life do you want to combat a tendency to exalt yourself instead of Christ?