

L.O. offer meanings about the parable of the Pharisee
and Tax Collector

We have been thinking about the parable of the Good Samaritan. In the story, the priest and Levite didn't act in ways we might have thought.

Another story Jesus told is the Pharisee and the Tax collector. Again this parable was told at a time when people were acting in ways the listener didn't expect...

Vocabulary:

Tax Collector - Someone who takes away part of your money on a regular basis to give to the government. We still pay taxes today. In Jesus' time this money was given to the Romans who had been invaders.

Pharisee - The religious leaders in Jesus' day who followed the Jewish laws. Other people listened to their leadership.

Who would you prefer to be?

Who do you think was preferred by the community?

Pharisee and Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14).

The parable of the pharisee and the tax collector is found in Luke 18:9-14. In it, Jesus tells the story of two men: one who believed he was righteous because of his actions and one who confessed that he was nothing but a sinner. Jesus makes the point that the humble man is thought of more highly to God than the righteous man.



“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed:

‘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.’

“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

“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.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51UtNMG9DF0>



If you have one, get a balloon; stretch, pull and twist it. You should find that the deflated balloon is pliable and flexible.

The humble man is like the deflated balloons. God can use someone who is humble because he can be bent to His will and be taught to do the right thing.



Now blow up your balloon...

A prideful man, like the pharisee -- who was proud of his fasting and devotion to God - is like a balloon filled with air. He cannot be manipulated for God's purposes. In fact, if he gets too full of himself, he will pop and be broken and useless. Too much pride is a sin, and that people should always be humble before God.

In Luke 18:14, Jesus states that those who are humble will be exalted by God. This means those who think they are better than others are not looked at favorably by God. Instead, God praises and raises up those who are humble, modest and know that they owe everything to God.

How might we show modesty and be humble?

For example, a child can offer to do something for his parents without asking for anything in return, or he can give something to someone without asking when they will get it back.

Use the worksheet to write down something that both men might have thought and something that they might have said.

For example;

Pharisee Tax Collector

I hope I can be forgiven.

Next step: What was the message of Jesus's parable?

What was Jesus's message in this story?

It's not just about people who looked religious and good on the outside but weren't good on the inside — it's also the other way around! Someone who doesn't 'look' good, actually shows an attitude that gets God's approval.

To sum up the teaching of Jesus in this story - actions speak louder than words; God loves humility; it's not how you look, it's what you are like in your heart that matters.

Plenary

Can you retell the Parable of the Tax Collector and the Pharisee to someone in your family.

Start with

'Jesus said, "Two men went to pray..."

Remember to end with the meaning.