

# Two Men - Two Prayers

(Luke 18:9-14)

- Introduction:
1. Jesus addressed the problem of pride in a very brief but powerful parable of a Publican and Pharisee who went up to the temple to pray.
  2. The challenge of this parable is to find ourselves in this story.
  3. When we discover our answer, please note what Jesus concluded.

## I. Two Men

### A. Pharisee.

1. The most strict sect in Judaism.
2. The term "pharisee" literally means "the separated ones."
3. These were the spiritually elite.

### B. Publican.

1. A publican was a tax collector.
2. Many were unscrupulous and dishonest.
3. Often mentioned together with sinners (Matthew 9:10-11; 11:19; Mark 2:15-16; Luke 5:30; 7:34; Luke 15:1).

## II. Two Prayers

### A. Proud

1. Gave thanks for not doing certain things.
  - a. The fact that we may not be guilty of some sins, doesn't make us free from all sin.
  - b. (Romans 3:9-10, 23).
  - c. How do we dare take pride in our avoidance from some sin, while we are guilty of other sins?
2. Gave thanks for doing certain things.
  - a. Do we think that the little good we can do in life can atone for our sinful status?
  - b. (Isaiah 64:6; Luke 17:10).
  - d. "What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. Not of good that I have done. Nothing but the blood of Jesus."

### B. Humble

1. (Isaiah 6:5).
2. (1 John 1:9).

- Conclusion:
1. Two men; two prayers, but only one man went home justified.
  2. Attitude made the difference.
  3. When you approach the God of heaven, do you do so with pride or with humility and brokenness?
  4. (Psalm 51:17).