

The Posture of the Heart

March 9, 2025 | *Luke 18:9-14*



THE POSTURE OF THE HEART

LUKE 18:9-14

Observations from Luke 18:9-14:

What is happening here?

- **The Pharisee:** (Self-Righteous & Proud)
 - Stands by himself, eyes facing the heavens
 - Shared his accomplishments and self-righteousness
 - Fasts twice a week, gives a tithe of everything (This was beyond what was required).
 - Compares himself with others: extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even the tax collector.
- **The Tax Collector:** (Humble & Repentant)
 - Stands at a distance, eyes facing down
 - In sorrow, prayed a prayer of repentance
 - *"God be merciful to me a sinner"*

Both go to the temple. The Tax Collector is exalted and the Pharisee is humbled.

Ontario Community Church: **Encouraging, Equipping and Engaging lives for Christ.**

John 6:47 (ESV) "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever **believes** has eternal life"

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Lessons from Luke 18:9-14:

What can we learn (interpret) from this?

- **Grace Matters More Than Works:** (*Isaiah 64:6*)
 - The Pharisee did everything right on the outside but was spiritually blind. The Tax Collector was relying on the Lord.
 - **Comparing Our Faith with Others' Faith is Foolish:** (*2 Corinthians 10:12*)
 - The Pharisee felt justified that he was better than others.
 - Other references: *Genesis 4:4-5* (Cain vs. Abel), *Jonah 4:1-2*, *Luke 15:28-30* (The Elder Brother).
 - **Salvation Comes Through Faith / Humility to God:** (*Ephesians 2:8-10*)
 - Salvation is a gift - The tax collector received grace.
 - Good works follow salvation - Unlike the Pharisee, who thought his works earned favor, true faith leads to transformation.
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Application from Luke 18:9-14:

How can I apply / live this out?

- **Examine the Posture of Your Heart**
 - Pride blinds, humility opens the door to grace.
 - Supporting Verses: *Psalm 139:23-24*, *Matthew 5:3*, *James 4:6*
- **Look to Christ, Don't Compare Yourself with Others.**
 - The standard is not others, but Jesus.
 - Supporting Verses: *Hebrews 12:2*, *Galatians 6:4*, *1 Samuel 16:7*
- **Extend Grace to Others - Devoted like the Tax Collector**
 - Those who receive grace should freely give it.
 - Supporting Verses: *Matthew 5:7*, *Colossians 3:12*, *Romans 15:7*

Consider: *What is your posture (heart) towards God?*

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