

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men--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 everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 18:9-14 (NIV)

Humility

There is something that I have no confidence in whatsoever. **What's that?** I have absolutely no confidence in my own righteousness. There are a few things of which I am completely certain. **What's that?** I have sinned. I will sin. I am a sinner. My righteousness is no better than filthy rags. My righteousness is about as desirable as old dirty, stinky clothes. It is quite obvious to me that I am no better than anyone else living on this planet. I have nothing to brag about. I have no reason to look down on anyone else. **I am glad that you know these things.**

What do you have confidence in? I have confidence in your forgiveness. I am certain that you will forgive my sin and cleanse my unrighteousness. I am sure that you have made me righteous in your sight. You have made it so I can draw near to you. You have made it possible for me to live in an intimate relationship with you. **Yes, I have done all these things for you.**

How will you live your life differently because you know that I have made you righteous? I will live in humility before you. I will freely confess my sins to you. I will live in humility with the rest of mankind. I will think and speak and act in ways that will humbly lead others to you. I will do for others what you have done for me. **Like what?** I will love like you loved. I will give like you gave. I will serve like you served. I will go and do whatever you ask of me so that others can come to know and love you. I will reach out to others so that they may also receive your forgiveness and cleansing. **That will be very good.**

Lord, I know that I am a sinner. I am no better than anyone else. I have nothing to brag about. It is you who has forgiven me. It is you who has cleansed me. It is you who has made me able to love and follow and serve you. Thank you for drawing me to you. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *Have Mercy On Me*

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men--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 everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

NIV

Luke 18:9-14

Becoming Like Christ *Be Merciful To Me*

Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else. For I don't cheat, I don't sin, and I don't commit adultery. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.' "But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.' I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

NLT

Luke 18:9-14

Becoming Like Christ *Be Merciful To Me*

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

NRSV

Luke 18:9-14

Becoming Like Christ *Be Merciful To Me*

He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves *and* were confident that they were righteous [that they were upright and in right standing with God] and scorned and made nothing of all the rest of men: Two men went up into the temple [enclosure] to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee took his stand ostentatiously and began to pray thus before *and* with himself: God, I thank You that I am not like the rest of men--extortioners (robbers), swindlers [unrighteous in heart and life], adulterers--or even like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I gain. But the tax collector, [merely] standing at a distance, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but kept striking his breast, saying, O God, be favorable (be gracious, be merciful) to me, the especially wicked sinner that I am! I tell you, this man went down to his home justified (forgiven and made upright and in right standing with God), rather than the other man; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.

AMP

Luke 18:9-14

Becoming Like Christ *Be Merciful To Me*

And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. "The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' "But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' "I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

NASB

Luke 18:9-14

Becoming Like Christ *Be Merciful To Me*

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

ESV

Luke 18:9-14

Becoming Like Christ *Be Merciful To Me*

Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

NKJV

Luke 18:9-14

Becoming Like Christ *Give Me Mercy*

He told his next story to some who were complacently pleased with themselves over their moral performance and looked down their noses at the common people: "Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax man. The Pharisee posed and prayed like this: 'Oh, God, I thank you that I am not like other people--robbers, crooks, adulterers, or, heaven forbid, like this tax man. I fast twice a week and tithe on all my income.' "Meanwhile the tax man, slumped in the shadows, his face in his hands, not daring to look up, said, 'God, give mercy. Forgive me, a sinner.' " Jesus commented, "This tax man, not the other, went home made right with God. If you walk around with your nose in the air, you're going to end up flat on your face, but if you're content to be simply yourself, you will become more than yourself."

MSG

Luke 18:9-14

Becoming Like Christ *Be Merciful To Me*

Then he told this story to some who boasted of their virtue and scorned everyone else: "Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a proud, self-righteous Pharisee, and the other a cheating tax collector. The proud Pharisee 'prayed' this prayer: 'Thank God, I am not a sinner like everyone else, especially like that tax collector over there! For I never cheat, I don't commit adultery, I go without food twice a week, and I give to God a tenth of everything I earn.' "But the corrupt tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed, but beat upon his chest in sorrow, exclaiming, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner.' I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home forgiven! For the proud shall be humbled, but the humble shall be honored."

TLB

Luke 18:9-14

Becoming Like Christ *Have Mercy On Me*

Jesus told this story to some people who thought they were very good and looked down on everyone else: "A Pharisee and a tax collector both went to the Temple to pray. The Pharisee stood alone and prayed, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people who steal, cheat, or take part in adultery, or even like this tax collector. I give up eating twice a week, and I give one-tenth of everything I get!' "The tax collector, standing at a distance, would not even look up to heaven. But he beat on his chest because he was so sad. He said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' I tell you, when this man went home, he was right with God, but the Pharisee was not. All who make themselves great will be made humble, but all who make themselves humble will be made great."

NCV

Luke 18:9-14

Have Mercy On Me

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Becoming Like Christ – Luke 18:9-14

In Context: *Read Luke 18*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men--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 everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 18:9-14 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

To some | who were confident | of their own righteousness | and | looked down on everybody else, | Jesus told | this parable: | "Two men | went up to | the temple to pray, | one a Pharisee | and | the other | a tax collector. | The Pharisee | stood up | and prayed | about himself: | 'God, I thank you | that I am not like | other men | --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 everyone | who exalts himself | will be humbled, | and | he who humbles himself | will be exalted." Luke 18:9-14 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I know that I am a sinner. I am no better than anyone else. I have nothing to brag about. It is you who has forgiven me. It is you who has cleansed me. It is you who has made me able to love and follow and serve you. Thank you for drawing me to you. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

Why are you no better than anyone else and have nothing to brag about?

How are you making it your regular practice to confess your sins to God?

Why can you be sure that the Lord will forgive your sins and cleanse your unrighteousness?

What joy and peace do you have because you have been forgiven of your sins and cleansed of your unrighteousness?

When have you foolishly exalted yourself and found yourself being humbled as a result?

When have you found yourself being exalted because you humbled yourself before God?

How are you praying for others to come to know and love and follow Jesus Christ?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Live in humility before God as you regularly confess your sins to Him.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will exalt you as you live in humility before Him.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you are living in humility before God.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you humbly confess your sins to the Lord.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will humbly confess my sins to you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, what sins do I need to confess to you today?
