

=THE PARABLES=

Lesson 5

The Pharisee and the Publican

AIM: to teach my pupils the fact that salvation comes by imputed righteousness, not practical righteousness.

POINT OF CONTACT: Have pictures of two men. These could be taken from a magazine or a catalog. You might attach them to the chalkboard or wall. Then have the class list the qualifications of each man and also his characteristics and virtues under his picture as you teach this lesson found in Luke 18:9-14. Do not mention who is saved or lost; simply mention, "Here is a man who is this and this and this," and "Here is another man who is this and this and this." After each man has been described, have the pupils guess which one was saved and which one was lost. Explain to them, of course, that one of the men is a saved man and one is a lost man. Unless the pupils figure out there is some trick to it, or unless they have read the Scripture recently, they will suggest that the better man is the saved one. Then the teacher is to tell them that he is not and why he is not.

I. MAN #1.

1. He was a religious man.
2. He believed in the immortality of the soul and the resurrection of the body.
3. He believed that men are rewarded or punished in the future life according as they have lived virtuously or viciously in this life.
4. He believed in everlasting salvation for the righteous and everlasting punishment for the unrighteous.
5. He believed in a bodily resurrection. He believed that the saved would rise and live again, having another body.
6. He believed in keeping the law of God. He was of strong religious character.
7. He belonged to a group which was considered to have the best people in the nation. (Teacher, the above things were typical of all Pharisees. In fact, the above describes briefly the doctrine and practice of the Pharisees. Hence, this man was a Pharisee. However, do not tell the pupils this fact at this point in the lesson.)
8. He stood and prayed aloud in church. In other words, he led in public prayer.
9. He was not an extortioner. He was just in his business dealings. He was not dishonest in his relationships with others when it came to money; he was considered a good risk.
10. He was not unjust. He was fair in his dealings, and he believed in justice.
11. He was not immoral. He was a man who was clean in his personal life and was not an adulterer. If he was married, he was faithful to his wife. If he was single, he was certainly a young man of purity. He guarded his mind against unholy thoughts and his body against unholy deeds.
12. He fasted twice a week. Religiously, he spent two days a week not eating food. He did this because of religious conviction.
13. He tithed. He gave one-tenth of all his income to the Lord. This was the first tenth, and he did this faithfully.
14. He attended church regularly. He was not an absentee; neither was he slack in his attendance to the house of God.
15. He was respected in his community as well as in his religious family. (Teacher, so far we have not revealed which man this is, and we have not read any Scripture. We have simply written these things down, or at least outlined them beside or beneath the picture of the man. Of course, he has every outward sign of being converted.) Now let us notice the next man.

II. MAN #2.

1. He had no religious background whatsoever.
2. As far as we know, he did not tithe.
3. He did not fast.
4. He was dishonest with his money. He was a man who was a tax collector and made his money by dealing dishonestly, cheating people, etc.

5. He was not respected in his neighborhood. He was considered a hated man and an unfair, unjust and dishonest one. (Teacher, now ask the pupils which of these two men was converted. Of course, the answer is the last one.) Now we come to the reason.

III. THE DIFFERENCE IN THE TWO MEN. See Luke 18:9-14.

1. The first man stood and prayed. The second man would not even lift up his eyes but smote his breast as he prayed.
2. The first man trusted his own goodness to get him to Heaven. The second man had no goodness to trust. Hence, he trusted the goodness of God to get him to Heaven.
3. The first man prayed with himself or to himself. Read Luke 18:11. The second man prayed to God.
4. The first man came to God on his own merit. The second asked God to come to him because of God's merit.
5. The key word here is the word "merciful" in Luke 18:13. The word "merciful" here is the word that is used often in the Bible for "mercy seat." The mercy seat was the place where the high priest sprinkled the blood once a year as an atonement for the sins of the people. This man was saying, "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner, as You were merciful to the Jews because of the blood on the Mercy Seat." Hence, he realized the following things:
 - 1) That he was a sinner.
 - 2) That sinners are lost and doomed for Hell.
 - 3) That innocent blood must be shed for a sinner.
 - 4) That the sinner must come to God humbly through this blood in order to be saved.
6. The second man was justified. Read Luke 18:14. The word "justified" means "a righteous declaration by a holy God declaring the sinner just as righteous as Jesus Christ, and declaring Jesus Christ as a sinner." In other words, Christ takes our sins upon Him and puts His righteousness on us. (A good way to show this would be to draw a vertical line on the chalkboard. Put Jesus' name on one side and our names on the other. Write down all the good things the pupils can think of about Jesus and all the bad things they can think of about us. After you have Jesus and His good points on one side and you have us and our bad points on the other side, erase our names from over the bad points and put Jesus' name there.) He took on Himself our badness and imputed to us His goodness. (Erase Jesus' name from the good list, and place our names there.) So, in Heaven, our record is like His good one and His record became like our bad one.

CONCLUSION: Find out how many of the pupils are saved. Using this parable, explain to those who are not saved what salvation means. Try to lead them to Jesus Christ and bring them forward in the service.