

Study Guide for June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003. Parables of Jesus. Luke 18:9-14: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector.

Introduction: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector are a study in contrasts. Think about our contemporary society. What two opposing groups capture this contrast between self-righteous pride and humility today?

I. The Intended Audience: (Luke 18:9)

- A. Jesus addressed this parable to people who were \_\_\_\_\_ (how they viewed themselves), and \_\_\_\_\_ (how they viewed others).
- B. Where have you encountered someone with those characteristics today? Describe.
- C. When have you seen those characteristics in yourself (or around whom are you like this)?

II. The Pharisee: (Luke 18:11-12)

- A. Briefly describe a Pharisee. (see a Bible dictionary) (see also Mt. 23:5-7, Mk. 7:6, Phil. 3:4-6)
- B. How were the Pharisees viewed socially among the Jews of Jesus' day?
- C. Describe his prayer. How does he view himself?                      How many references are there to self?  
How does he view God?
- D. What does this negative example teach you about how to **not** offer prayer to God?

III. The Tax Collector: (Luke 18:13)

- A. Briefly describe a tax collector. (see a Bible dictionary) (see also Mark 2:13-17, Luke 19:1-10)
- B. How were the tax collectors viewed socially among the Jews of Jesus' day?
- C. Describe his prayer. How does he view himself?                      How does he view God?
- D. What does this positive example teach you about the people God will justify?

IV. The Lesson: (Luke 18:14)

- A. Fill in the blanks: "For everyone who \_\_\_\_\_ himself will be \_\_\_\_\_, and he who \_\_\_\_\_ himself will be \_\_\_\_\_."
- B. Read and summarize the meaning of the following Proverbs.
  - 1) Prov. 11:2                      2) Prov. 16:18                      3) Prov. 18:12                      4) Prov. 29:23
- C. Where is Jesus wanting to replace an attitude of pride with one of humility in your life?