

WHAT IS THE POSTURE OF PRAYER?

LUKE 18:9-14

1/28/24

I. TWO PEOPLE

Luke 18:10 - "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector."

1. Pharisee

~ Belonged in the temple

2. Tax Collector

~ Didn't belong in the temple – unclean

II. TWO PRAYERS

1. Pharisee's Prayer

Luke 18:11-12 - "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. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'"

~ Posture of self-dependency

2. Tax Collector's Prayer

Luke 18:13 - "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!'"

~ Sober awareness of who he is before a Holy God

~ Posture of Humility

3. Right heart posture leads to right requests

~ Request – God do what I cannot do for myself

III. RESULT

Luke 18:14 - "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."

1. God answers the tax collector

2. The correct heart posture is absolutely essential to true prayer

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. How can selfishness and self-righteousness enter into our prayer lives?
3. How can we nurture the right heart posture of humility in our prayer lives this week?
4. Why is it so easy for us to just focus on ourselves in prayer? How do we combat this as Christians?

READ PSALM 25:8-9

5. What is God able to do with the humble in these verses? Why is that important?
6. How do these verse apply to our message this week about the posture of prayer?
7. The Tax Collector highlighted God's attribute of mercy in his prayer. What are some of God's other attributes and why would they be important for us to incorporate into our prayer lives?
8. How does having a correct view of God encourage our hearts to have the correct posture in prayer? How do we cultivate a correct view of who God is?
9. How do the things we pray about relate to what our heart posture in prayer is?

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

- Pray for our widows and shut-ins at the church. The people who cannot leave their homes and who faithfully attend online.
- Pray for our members who are in long term care facilities and the hospital.
- Pray for their encouragement, recovery, and witness in these facilities.

If you would like to be more active in encouraging our widows and shut-ins, contact the church office about our Barnabas Ministry. We have a whole ministry of writing cards and sending notes of encouragement to our widows and shut-ins