

THANKFULNESS TO GOD Compared with SELF-RIGHTEOUS THANKSGIVING



The Pharisee prayed and thanked God for who he was. The publican humbled himself and prayed for mercy because he was a sinner. This sinner received mercy and justification from the Lord...but not the Pharisee.

Luke 18: 9 And he [the Lord] spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, **but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.**

14 I tell you, **this man went down to his house justified rather than the other:** for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Continuing on in Verse 35, by faith the blind beggar realizing who the Lord was, cried unto Him for mercy. Not only did the Lord give him healing, but He gave him salvation.

Luke 18:35 And it came to pass, that as he [the Lord and his disciples] was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging:

36 And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant.

37 And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by.

38 And **he cried, saying, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me.**

39 And they which went before rebuked him, [THE BLIND BEGGAR], that he should hold his peace: **but he cried so much the more, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.**

40 And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him,

41 Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight.

42 And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: **thy faith hath saved thee.**

43 And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.

Men and women often-times give their testimonies of faith and prayers to God which sound more like self-praise rather than prayer and thanksgiving unto our Lord God. How often do most of us in some measure take credit and praise that rightfully belongs entirely to God?

In Luke chapter 18, the Lord tells a parable unto his disciples and unto certain unrighteous ones who trusted in themselves for their righteousness. The Lord made the comparison of the Pharisee, who went to the temple to pray, and the publican who went into the temple to pray. The Pharisee prayed thus "with himself," he thanked God that he wasn't like other people and

that he fasted and paid tithes. He was happy and thankful for who he was and what he was doing for God. But how did he leave the temple after praying to God? He left...unjustified and unrighteous before God and still a sinner. But the publican on the other hand, realizing that he was a sinner and un-right before God, stood afar off. He would not lift up his eyes to heaven, and he smote upon his breast, and prayed, "God be merciful to me a sinner." God heard his prayer. The publican went home justified before God, rather than the other man, the Pharisee, of whom was not justified by God.

As our apostle Paul tells us in all of his writings to the Church, the body of Christ, that by the blood of Christ's cross, and by his humility for us on Calvary's cross, that we, who are not under the law for righteousness, can be justified as well. The handwriting of the law was taken out of the way, blotted out, and nailed to Christ's cross (Colossians 2:14): *"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;"* In this dispensation of God's grace, the Lord is dispensing grace, mercy, and peace to all who by faith in Him, will believe His Words, they shall be saved.

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: [no difference between Jew or Gentile]

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Philippians 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

17 Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.

18 For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.