

# THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF MAN

## LUKE CHAPTER 18:9-14

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### **BETWEEN HEAVEN & HELL**

*THE HUMANITY AND DIVINITY OF JESUS CHRIST,  
THE SON OF GOD, SON OF MAN, SAVIOR OF ALL MANKIND*

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SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

### **Pride, Humility, Heaven, Hell, Religion, Relationship**

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What Comes to Your Mind When You Hear Those Two Words?

#### **“HEAVEN & HELL”**

maybe it's a beautiful painting by Kinkadee or a Haunting Image from Dante's Inferno.

Regardless, **“HEAVEN & HELL”** are Actual, Factual Places that Jesus Christ Himself Confirmed.

#### **It's What's Between Those Words**

That's All Important to Us Today because that's Where we Live.

*None of right now are in heaven and none of us are in hell.  
those are terminating points, final destinations if you will of life's journey.*

#### **Luke 18:9-14**

Also, He spoke this parable to some who **trusted in themselves** that they were **righteous**, and **despised others**: :10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. :11 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. :12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.”** :13 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!”** :14 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.”

# BETWEEN HEAVEN & HELL

## 1.) Is the moment we're in right now

### 1a.) We have an opinion of God vs. 9-10

Also, He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were **righteous**, and **despised others**: :10 "Two men went up to the **temple** to **pray**, one a **Pharisee** and the other a **tax collector**.

The Context is Jewish, It's Israel, It's the Temple

The Thought of Man "**Approaching**" The Creator God of All, The Lord of Glory was an All-Amazing Thing!

## The Old Testament Picture of God was Perfect

### Psalm 24:1-3

The earth *is* the LORD'S, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. :2 For He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters. :3 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD. Or who may stand in His holy place?

### Exodus 19:17-20

And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. :18 Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. :19 And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. :20 Then the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

### 1b.) We have an opinion of ourselves vs. 11

we have two men –  
each one's opinion of themselves are perfectly opposite from one another.

The Pharisee **stood** and prayed **thus with himself**,

Literally: “He prayed **to** himself.” or “Toward himself” or “Alone”

## The Pharisee **stood**

“**stood**” the word means that he **stood straight-stiff-up!!!**

*“This guy didn’t have self-esteem issues. he esteemed himself just fine.”*

I’m Impressed by How Impressed  
This Man is Impressed with himself!

### Verse 11-12

*“God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. :12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.”*

“Some who **trusted in themselves**”

*what are the indicators that someone is trusting in themselves?*

**self-righteous, self-justifying pride**

#### Matthew 7:1

“Judge not, that you be not judged.”

**Religious Pride** is The Most Dangerous Form of Pride  
because it deludes a person into thinking that they are **God-Like!**

#### James 1:23-25

Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who **looks at his face in a mirror :24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. :25** But the man who looks intently into the perfect law (of love) that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it — he will be blessed in what he does. **(What does that mean to me today?)**

Hey Church, Christian - - Be Careful  
When all you Hear is the “I’s” in Someone Communication.

**The Devil, Satan is full of I’s**

the Bible teaches that Satan wants to be greater than God.  
And he has his little “positive confession” that he Chants, and it goes like this;  
**“I am Greater, I am Greater, “I am Greater, I am Greater,**

**Isaiah 14:12-14**

“How you have fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, you who weaken the nations! :13 For you have said in your heart: “I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; :14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Highest.’

***“I am Greater, I am Greater, “I am Greater, I am Greater,***

the “I’s” are always present when fear and insecurity are running the show.

**Verse 13**

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!”***

he would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven...  
but beat his breast...  
saying, “God, be merciful to me a (the) sinner!”

**Verse 9-10**

...one a **Pharisee** and the other a **tax collector**.

On the Jewish List of the Nations  
Top-Ten of Who’s Hot & Who’s Not

**Pharisee, He’s Hot // Tax Collector, He’s Not**

**BETWEEN HEAVEN & HELL AT THIS MOMENT**

**1c.) We have an opinion of others**

**vs. 13**

**A Pharisee’s Goal was to separate from Others.**

they had Pharisee clothes that they wore, Pharisee hats.

the Pharisee outings and Pharisee retreats.

here a Pharisee, there a Pharisee, everywhere a Pharisee.

by doing this they felt secure, different, holy, unique.

# The Tax Collector hated his own Condition.

he saw himself as being opposite of God.  
it was his unrighteousness that made him sick of himself.  
it was his inability to live a good life that frustrated him.

## 2 Corinthians 10:12b

But they who, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

## Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
Pharisee Man would say, “yeap – all those guys. tax man would say, “I know”

**Notice** that the 2 men are men – at the same location **but...**  
it isn't until they pray that what kind of men they are comes out!

Religion has never impressed the Lord.  
But a Personal Encounter with Him Does – *always!*

## BETWEEN HEAVEN & HELL

### 2.) Is the decisions we're making right now

**THE LORD IS MASTER @ GETTING OUR ATTENTION:  
AND HE OFTEN SENDS OUR WAY A “BEAUTIFUL DISCOMFORT”,  
A “TERRIBLE GOOD” FOR A GREATER PURPOSE**

## John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

## O' BY THE WAY – IT'S TIME TO DO IT NOW – CHRISTIANITY 101

### Matthew 13:20-21

But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; :21 yet he has no root in himself but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

# BETWEEN HEAVEN & HELL & THE DECISIONS WE'RE MAKING RIGHT NOW

## 2a.) The decision to only look to yourself

There is a strong temptation to become “preoccupied” with what concerns “ME”

This “I Can Save My Self” Factor has Kept Many Out of Heaven.

Self will always Disappoint Us

### Psalm 121:1-3

I lift my eyes to the hills — where does my help come from? :2 My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. :3 He will not let your foot slip — he who watches over you will not slumber.

## 2b.) The decision to only think about yourself

the pharisees thrived on being **outwardly religious**.  
it made them feel better, superior and above others.

we cannot become like the Pharisees.

we need to think of ourselves as we should.

### **A WARNING HERE**

**There is a Great Danger to the Bible – *you hear, you live it!!!***

### John 15:9-15

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. :10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. :11 “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full. :12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. :13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. :14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. :15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

# BETWEEN HEAVEN & HELL & THE DECISIONS WE'RE MAKING RIGHT NOW

## 2c.) The decision to only listen to yourself vs. 9

Also, He spoke this parable to **some who trusted in themselves**

**trusted** *pei+qw peitho, pi'-tho;*

to rely upon, to agree with, to befriend, to counsel yourself. - confide in yourself.

"How am I doing today? – I'm doing awesome. what am I going to have for lunch?  
whatever I want. I like you. I like you too. what are you doing later? whatever I  
want to do."

### Romans 12:3

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of  
*himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly,

You Become Your Own Universe – A Legend in Your Own Mind.

Leo Tolstoy wrote.

(From the diary of Leo Tolstoy)

*"I awoke this morning with the conviction that I am a most remarkable man.  
I have not yet met a single man who is as good and as moral as I."*

## BETWEEN HEAVEN & HELL

### 3.) Is the choosing of sides right now vs. 14

:14 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."

### 3a.) We will choose to go where we want to go vs. 14

I tell you; this man went down to his house "justified"

where did this man **go** to get his mercy?  
not the temple, not to synagogue, he went directly **to the Lord**.

## Verse 13

Remember - - he was 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!”

This is a “Deep” Expression Here // Literally:

**“Turn Towards Me God, turn towards me like you do toward the mercy seat”**

**where do we go to get the mercy we need?**

not to the church, not to service, we go directly **to the place of mercy – the Cross.**

The Mercy Seat that God had given Moses to build was a copy of the Mercy Seat in Heaven Above. the Ark of the Covenant Spoke of what was coming – The Mercy Seat is where the offering sat or was placed.

**There’s Here an Amazing Hidden Gem Before Us.**

**Jesus is saying that in this parable,**

the man that saw himself lost, poor, ungodly, rejected, unwanted was the same man who was sorry for his sins against God and Others.

**Jesus is Saying**

“This man left knowing he had been changed by the power of God’s mercy.”

Before we were Christians, we went wherever we wanted to go.

**Matthew 4:19**

Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

**BETWEEN HEAVEN & HELL & THE  
CHOOSING OF SIDES**

**3b.) We will choose to do what we want to do**

“What we want in life  
reveals “Who the lord is of our lives”



**it's what Jesus Christ taught us by example when He prayed.**

**Luke 22:42**

saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done."

it's what John the Baptist said in.

**John 3:30**

He must increase, but I *must* decrease.

**Philippians 3:4-7**

though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: **:5** circumcised the eighth day of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; **:6** concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. **:7** But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

## **BETWEEN HEAVEN & HELL & THE CHOOSING OF SIDES**

**3c.) We will choose to be who we want to be vs. 14a**

I tell you, this man went down to his house

**justified** dikaios/w, pure, innocent, freed, righteous

**Justification Doesn't Come in Increments.**

**Verse 14b**

rather than the other; for everyone who **exalts himself** will be humbled, and he who **humbles himself** will be exalted."

**? Will we Choose to be Humbled by God?**

are you waking up to the reality that you just can't  
"Make things happen?"

**Philippians 3:7-9**

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. :8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ :9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.

**This man was set free!**

**Romans 4:25-5:1**

Jesus Christ was delivered up because of **our offenses** and was raised because of **our justification**. :1 Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Are you the Pharisee Today or The Poor Tax-Collector?

**BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL  
EVERYONE OF US HAS TO CHOOSE A SIDE.**

**Galatians 2:20**

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

**2 Corinthians 5:16-17**

Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer. :17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

There is a "Mercy Seat" Reserved for You Today My Friend.

**As we close with our thanks to God in worship of Him.**

Please Come Forward for Prayer Right Here & Right Now  
**and if you and I have never met before or if you're visiting with us today or if you're a real-radio listener, then please, I would love to meet you near the fountain in the courtyard**

*End of Study*