

Luke 18:9-14
A Humble Prayer

A very pointed parable ...

- I. Two Praying Men
 - A. At the Temple
 - B. Pharisee
 - C. Tax Collector
- II. Our Expectations?
 - A. Your Take?
 - B. Jesus' Declaration
 - C. Who Can is Justified?
 - D. Poignant Examples
- III. A Study in Self-Perception
 - A. Their Personal Inventory
 - B. Our Self-Evaluation
- IV. Principals for Prayer
 - A. Humility
 - B. Grateful

... personally applied.

Children, Listen ...

1. What were the two men in Jesus' parable doing?
2. What did the Pharisee tell God about himself?
3. What did the Tax Collector ask God for?
4. Which one did Jesus say was accepted by God (or justified)?
5. Does God want to hear how good we think we are when we pray?

Self-Knowledge

A prayer from The Valley of Vision

Searcher of hearts,
It is a good day to me when thou givest me a glimpse of myself;
Sin is my greatest evil, but thou art my greatest good;
I have cause to loathe myself, and not to seek self-honour
For no one desires to commend his own dunghill.
My country, family, church fare worse because of my sins,
For sinners bring judgment in thinking sins are small,
or that God is not angry with them,
For all good men are not so good as thou desirest,
Are not always consistent, do not always follow holiness, do not
feel eternal good in sore affliction.
Show me how to know when a thing is evil
which I think is right and good,
How to know when what is lawful comes from an evil principle,
Such as desire for reputation or wealth by usury.
Give me grace to recall my needs, my lack of knowing thy will
in Scripture,
Of wisdom to guide others, of daily repentance, want of which
keeps thee at bay,
of the spirit of prayer, having words without love, of zeal for thy
glory, seeking my own ends,
of joy in thee and thy will, of love to others.
And let me not lay my pipe too short of the fountain, never
touching the eternal spring,
never drawing down water from above.