

MERCY NOT MERIT

Luke 18:9-14

Misconception #4: The posture of our heart is not important.

Big Idea: *We should approach God in prayer with a heart of mercy, not merit.*

PARABLE:

⁹ “And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: ¹⁰ ‘Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.’”

APPLICATION:

1. Jesus warns us against praying with a _____ .

¹⁴ “I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Proverbs 6:16-17 “There are six things which the Lord hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷ Haughty eyes . . .”

Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

James 4:6b “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

2. Jesus encourages us to pray with a _____ .

¹³ “But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’”

Isaiah 64:6 “For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.”

Psalms 24:3-6 “Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? And who may stand in His holy place? ⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood And has not sworn deceitfully. ⁵ He shall receive a blessing from the Lord And righteousness from the God of his salvation. ⁶ This is the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face—even Jacob.”

NOTES: