

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14)

I. The Pharisee: *He represents those who think they are right.*

A. This was a man stricken with severe pride.

● Jesus exposed the pride of the Pharisees in Matt. 23.

B. He regarded himself in comparison to other people.

C. As a result of his disease, his prayer was worthless and he was declared guilty.

II. The Tax Collector: *He represents those who know they need mercy.*

A. This was a man broken by sincere humility.

● David exposed the heart of a broken man in Psalm 51.

B. He regarded himself in comparison to God alone.

C. As a result of his confession, his prayer was effective and he was declared innocent.

III. The Rest Of Us: *What do we learn from the story of these two men who went to pray?*

A. Pride:

1. Puts us in direct opposition to God (James 4:6).
2. Leads to an inflated view of ourselves and a low view of others.
3. Disables our prayers from being heard (Psalm 66:18).

B. Humility:

1. Enables us to receive God's grace. (1 Peter 5:5-6)
2. Gives us a right perspective of ourselves and keeps our eyes off others.
2. Qualifies prayer to be powerful and effective (James 5:16).