

Sermon Text: Luke 18:9-14 Self-righteous Contempt or Humble Confession

Jesus teaches us to seek justification through God's sacrifice for sin.

1) The self-righteous misplace trust and destroy love (18:9-12).

- a) Misplace Trust: "trusted in themselves that they were righteous" (18:9)
- b) Destroy Love: "treated others with contempt" (18:9)
- c) 29 word "prayer" thanking God for making him better than other people
 - i) contrasts himself with thieves, liars and adulterers, and "this tax collector" (18:11)
 - ii) extols his extraordinary devotion
- d) **Application:**
 - i) Remember God's standard is perfection (Ezekiel 33:13).
 - ii) Remember only God is holy.
 - iii) Self-righteousness does not produce love for others; therefore, it is not God's righteousness.
 - iv) Self-righteousness does not extend grace to others; therefore, it cannot receive grace.

2) The justified trust God's sacrifice for sin and enjoy love (18:13-14).

- a) "Justified" means declared right, not by self, but by God (1 Cor. 4:3-4).
- b) Contrast the postures of the Pharisee and the tax collector: "standing, prayed to himself" vs. "standing far off, would not even lift his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast"
 - i) Unwelcome in good society and unfit for God's holy hill (Ps. 24:3-6)
 - ii) Downcast eyes in prayer indicated shame.
 - iii) Beating his breast expresses grief.
- c) Contrast the prayers of the Pharisee and the tax collector: 29 words vs. 6 words (in Greek)
 - i) Request for God's mercy
 - (1) Young's Literal Translation "God, be propitious"
 - (2) HCSB "God, turn Your wrath"
 - (3) He is in the temple where sacrifices for atonement are made. Jesus displaces temple.
 - ii) Confession of unworthiness—"the sinner"
- d) **Application:**
 - i) Condemn your own sin (James 4:8-10).
 - ii) Trust in the mercy of God in Christ's sacrifice for sinners.
 - iii) Don't trust in your righteousness. Trust in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.
 - iv) Don't trust in your humility. Trust in God's kindness.

Doxology: Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your name give glory, for the sake of Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness! Psalm 115:1