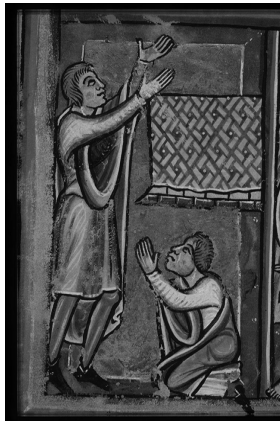


Luke 18.9-14
The Pharisee and the
Tax Collector

What a Loser
or
Who's Sorry Now?

Mark Vitalis Hoffman



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Context for Luke 18.9-14

Luke 18.1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart...

>> Parable of widow and judge

How ought one pray?

Whose prayers are heard?

Who is righteous?

How is righteousness / justification accomplished?

Luke 18.9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous (δικαιοι) and regarded others with contempt:

Jesus told a story to some people who thought they were better than others and who looked down on everyone else. (CEV)

Luke 18.9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous (δικαιοι) and regarded others with contempt:

What's wrong here?

- *They trust in themselves*
- *They trust in themselves that they are righteous*
- *They regard others with contempt*
- *All of the above*

Luke 18.9-14

¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray..."

Luke 18.9-14

¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

Which is the righteous one?

Which is the unrighteous one?

Which is the self-righteous one?

Was the one a "dishonest tax collector"? (NLT)

Luke 18.9-14

¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

What was the tax collector doing in the temple in the first place?

Luke 18.9-14

¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus...

ὁ Φαρισαῖος σταθεὶς πρὸς ἑαυτὸν ταῦτα προσήχετο

The Pharisee,

- stood by himself and was praying
- stood and was praying to himself these things
- stood and was praying these things regarding himself

Luke 18.9-14

¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus,

'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.'

What kind of prayer is this?

Note that the Pharisee's 2x fasting and tithing were understood to provide benefits for others.

Luke 18.9-14

¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus,

'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.'

How are those in Jesus' audience hearing this prayer?

Are they snickering about this Pharisee's arrogance?

Or are they affirming the rightness of his actions and feeling guilty for not being as upright as this Pharisee?

Luke 18.9-14

¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying,

'God, be merciful to me, a (the) sinner!'
ὁ θεός, ἰλάσθητί μοι τῷ ἁμαρτωλῷ.

What kind of prayer is this?

What kind of pray-er is this?

Luke 18.9-14

*Do you identify and sympathize with:
the Pharisee?*

or

the tax collector?

Luke 18.9-14

¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified (δεδικαιωμένος) rather than the other...

Justified by whom? (Compare with verse 9!)

Luke 18.9-14

¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Is this parable mainly an encouragement to be humble?

What does it mean to be "humble"?

Luke 18.9-14

If you walk around with your nose in the air, you're going to end up flat on your face, but if you're content to be simply yourself, you will become more than yourself. (Message)

If you put yourself above others, you will be put down.

When you acknowledge to yourself who you really are, God will lift you up. (CEV/MGVH)

Luke 18.9-14

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'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.'

What is the Pharisee's problem?

That he is proud?

That he is dishonest in describing how he lives?

That he is wrong?

Luke 18.9-14

¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying,

'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

What is the tax collector's virtue?

That he is humble?

That he plans to do better?

That he realizes that he has no virtue?

Luke 18.9-14

¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying,

'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

*What is the tax collector's **saving grace**?*

That he realizes who he truly is and that it is God's actions that will justify

Luke 18.9-14

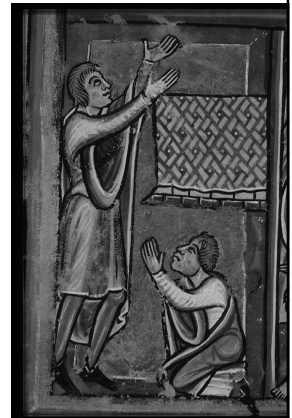
¹¹ The Pharisee... was praying thus,
'God, I thank you ...

¹³ But the tax collector, ... was saying,
'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

*The Pharisee says thank you.
The tax collector gives a command to God
and does not even say please.
Which one ends up justified?*

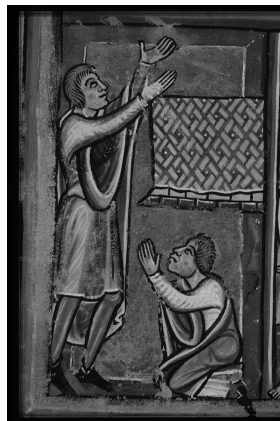
The Good News is *not* about being less self-righteous than this Pharisee.

The Good News is *not* about more humble than this tax collector.



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The Good News is that God justifies sinners and God loves losers



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Luke 18.9-14

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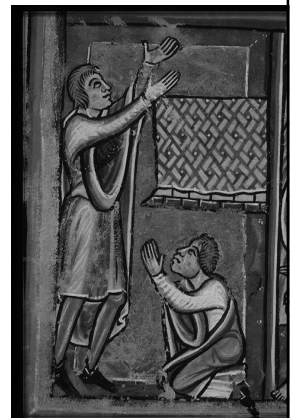
Was the one a "dishonest tax collector"? (NLT)

So, who do you think you are?

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