

Before Jesus told this parable, who would the original hearers have thought to be righteous between these two? Wicked?

The Pharisee and Tax Collector – May 31, 2017 Bellevue Church of Christ – Auditorium Class

Only recorded in Luke's gospel

Luke 18:9–14 (ESV)

⁹He also **told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:**

Possible Jesus could be telling this parable directly to Pharisees

Jews attended daily services in the Temple

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

The Pharisee (11-12)

*Mt 23:1-36 (vv. 5-7)

*Mk 7:1-13 (vv. 6-7)

*Lk 11:37-54

*Phil 3:4-6

-He presents his prayer like the fulfillment of a contract with God whereby He would accept the Pharisee's merit in exchange for salvation.

-Note that he doesn't feel any need for God's mercy or pardon.

-Who is he **actually** praying to?

-Where is his faith?

"prayed about himself" (NIV84)

¹¹The Pharisee, standing **by himself**, prayed thus: **'God, I** thank you that **I** am **not like other men**, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

Note the five times he uses the pronoun "I" in his prayer

Standing by Himself

-Likely would have been in the court of the Israelites near the Holy Place

-See attached notes for diagram of Herod's temple.

"the sacrifice of fools" (Ecc 5:1-2)

¹²**I** fast twice a week; **I** give tithes of **all that I get.** <- The law only required one fast per year (see Lev 16:29-31; 23:27-32; Num 29:7)

The law only required certain items be tithed (see Deut 14:22-23; Lk 11:42).

"A Sinner"

-Literally "the sinner"
-As if he was saying "If ever there was one, I am he."

The Tax Collector (13)

-His location, posture, actions, and speech reveal his humility and recognition of his sinfulness

-A stunning contrast to the self-righteous Pharisee

Shocking Role Reversal!

-The character who would have been perceived as righteous is rejected by God, while the character known for wickedness receives God's acceptance.

¹³But the **tax collector, standing far off**, would not even **lift up his eyes** to heaven, but **beat his breast**, saying, **'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'**

Lift up his eyes - A normal posture of prayer (see Psa 123:1) - Why would he avoid this? (Ezr 9:6)

Beat his breast - A sign of mourning and contrition (Lk 23:48; Je 31:9)

¹⁴I tell you, **this man** went down to his house **justified**, rather than **the other**. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." <- Ps 138:6; 147:6; Lk 1:53; 13:30

Why were tax collectors despised?

1. Corruption
2. Contribution
3. Contamination

Standing Far Off

-Perhaps in the court of Gentiles since tax collectors typically were ostracized as collaborators with the Romans.

-See attached notes for diagram of Herod's temple.

This handout can be downloaded in PDF format from: teamagee.com/class

The Pharisees

PHARISEES—separatists (Heb. persahin, from parash, “to separate”). They were probably the successors of the Assideans (i.e., the “pious”), a party that originated in the time of Antiochus Epiphanes in revolt against his heathenizing policy. The first mention of them is in a description by Josephus of the three sects or schools into which the Jews were divided (B.C. 145). The other two sects were the Essenes and the Sadducees. In the time of our Lord they were the popular party (John 7:48). They were extremely accurate and minute in all matters appertaining to the law of Moses (Matt. 9:14; 23:15; Luke 11:39; 18:12). Paul, when brought before the council of Jerusalem, professed himself a Pharisee (Acts 23:6–8; 26:4, 5).

There was much that was sound in their creed, yet their system of religion was a form and nothing more. Theirs was a very lax morality (Matt. 5:20; 15:4, 8; 23:3, 14, 23, 25; John 8:7). On the first notice of them in the New Testament (Matt. 3:7), they are ranked by our Lord with the Sadducees as a “generation of vipers.” They were noted for their self-righteousness and their pride (Matt. 9:11; Luke 7:39; 18:11, 12). They were frequently rebuked by our Lord (Matt. 12:39; 16:1–4).

From the very beginning of his ministry the Pharisees showed themselves bitter and persistent enemies of our Lord. They could not bear his doctrines, and they sought by every means to destroy his influence among the people.¹

Matthew 23:1–36 (ESV)

¹ Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ² “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat, ³ so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. ⁴ They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. ⁵ They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, ⁶ and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues ⁷ and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. ⁸ But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. ⁹ And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. ¹⁰ Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. ¹¹ The greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹² Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

¹³ “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. ¹⁵ Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.

¹⁶ “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ ¹⁷ You blind

¹ Easton, M. G. (1893). In [Easton’s Bible dictionary](#). New York: Harper & Brothers.

The Pharisee and Tax Collector – May 31, 2017
Bellevue Church of Christ – Auditorium Class

fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? ¹⁸ And you say, 'If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.' ¹⁹ You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? ²⁰ So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. ²¹ And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. ²² And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.

²³ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. ²⁴ You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

²⁵ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶ You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

²⁷ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸ So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

²⁹ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, ³⁰ saying, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' ³¹ Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. ³² Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. ³³ You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? ³⁴ Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, ³⁵ so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. ³⁶ Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

Mark 7:1–13 (ESV)

¹ Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, ² they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³ (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, ⁴ and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) ⁵ And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶ **And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,**

" 'This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me;
⁷ **in vain do they worship me,**

The Pharisee and Tax Collector – May 31, 2017
Bellevue Church of Christ – Auditorium Class

teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

⁸ You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.”

⁹ And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! ¹⁰ For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ ¹¹ But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, “Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban” ’ (that is, given to God)— ¹² then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, ¹³ thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

Luke 11:37–54 (ESV)

³⁷ While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him, so he went in and reclined at table. ³⁸ The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner. ³⁹ And the Lord said to him, “Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. ⁴⁰ You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? ⁴¹ But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you.

⁴² **“But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.**

⁴³ Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seat in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. ⁴⁴ Woe to you! For you are like unmarked graves, and people walk over them without knowing it.”

⁴⁵ One of the lawyers answered him, “Teacher, in saying these things you insult us also.” ⁴⁶ And he said, “Woe to you lawyers also! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers. ⁴⁷ Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed. ⁴⁸ So you are witnesses and you consent to the deeds of your fathers, for they killed them, and you build their tombs. ⁴⁹ Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,’ ⁵⁰ so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, ⁵¹ from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation. ⁵² Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering.”

⁵³ As he went away from there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to press him hard and to provoke him to speak about many things, ⁵⁴ lying in wait for him, to catch him in something he might say.

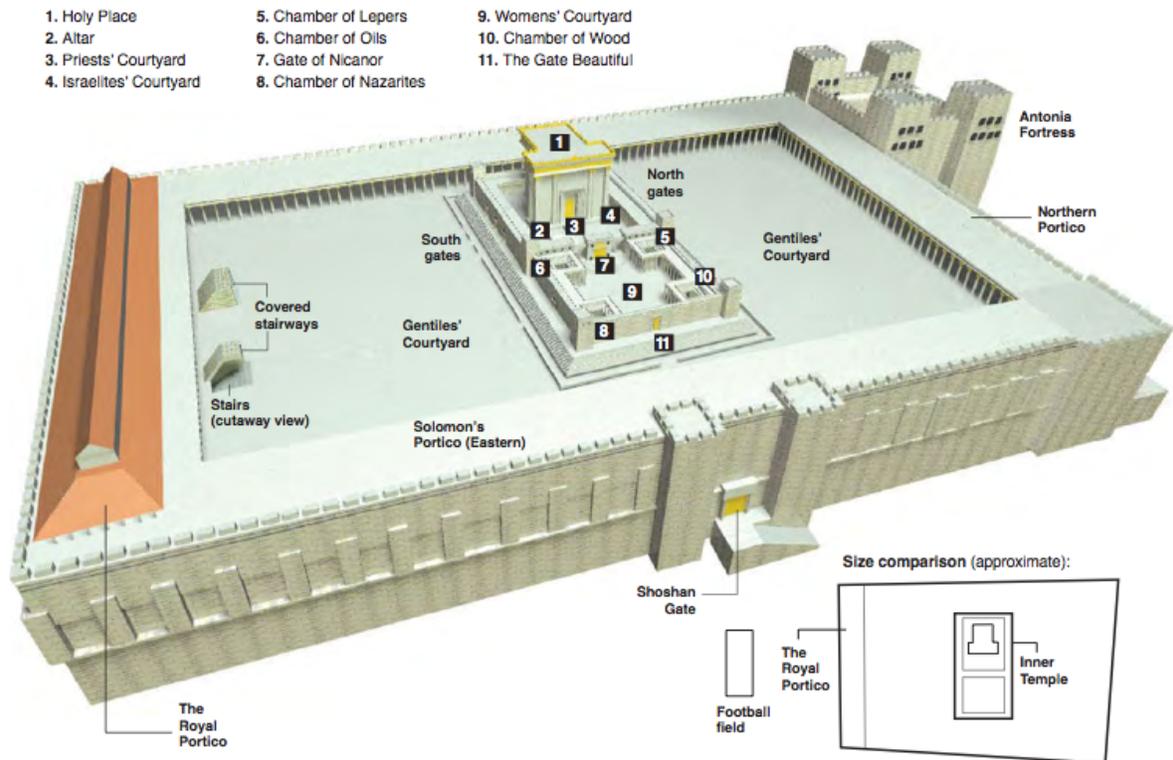
Philippians 3:4–6 (ESV)

⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Herod's Temple

Herod's Temple on the Temple Mount

King Herod the Great began renovations on the Temple in approximately 20–19 BC. The entire temple expansion, including the massive Temple Mount, was not complete until approximately AD 62–64, only to be destroyed by the Romans in AD 70.



GRAPHIC BY KARBEL MULTIMEDIA, COPYRIGHT 2008 LOGOS BIBLE SOFTWARE

Fasting

Leviticus 16:29–31 (ESV)

²⁹ “And it shall be a statute to you forever that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict yourselves and shall do no work, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you. ³⁰ For on this day shall atonement be made for you to cleanse you. You shall be clean before the LORD from all your sins. ³¹ It is a Sabbath of solemn rest to you, and you shall afflict yourselves; it is a statute forever.

The Pharisee and Tax Collector – May 31, 2017
Bellevue Church of Christ – Auditorium Class

Leviticus 23:27–32 (ESV)

²⁷ “Now on the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be for you a time of holy convocation, and you shall afflict yourselves and present a food offering to the LORD. ²⁸ And you shall not do any work on that very day, for it is a Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God. ²⁹ For whoever is not afflicted on that very day shall be cut off from his people. ³⁰ And whoever does any work on that very day, that person I will destroy from among his people. ³¹ You shall not do any work. It is a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwelling places. ³² It shall be to you a Sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict yourselves. On the ninth day of the month beginning at evening, from evening to evening shall you keep your Sabbath.”

Numbers 29:7 (ESV)

⁷ “On the tenth day of this seventh month you shall have a holy convocation and afflict yourselves. You shall do no work,

Tithing

Deuteronomy 14:22–23 (ESV)

²² “You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. ²³ And before the LORD your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always.

Tax Collectors

Tax collectors generally obtained their posts from Roman authorities through a bidding system. They often made sizeable profits by levying higher taxes than Rome required. Consequently, Jews regarded Jewish tax collectors as traitors and as members of the lowest level of society. The mention of tax collectors alongside non-Jewish people (v. 47) reflects not only their poor reputation, but also the scope of Jesus’ ministry to redeem all of humanity, including the outcasts of society. Matthew, the likely author of this Gospel, was a tax collector, and Jews viewed his inclusion among Jesus’ disciples as scandalous (9:9–13).²

Lift Up His Eyes

Psalms 123:1 (ESV)

¹ To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

² Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). [Faithlife Study Bible](#) (Mt 5:46). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

The Pharisee and Tax Collector – May 31, 2017
Bellevue Church of Christ – Auditorium Class

Ezra 9:6 (ESV)

⁶ saying:

“O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift my face to you, my God, for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the heavens.

Beat His Breast

Luke 23:48 (ESV)

⁴⁸ And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts.

Jeremiah 31:9 (ESV)

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back,
I will make them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble,
for I am a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Humbles Himself

Psalms 138:6 (ESV)

⁶ For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he knows from afar.

Psalms 147:6 (ESV)

⁶ The LORD lifts up the humble;
he casts the wicked to the ground.

Luke 1:53 (ESV)

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

Luke 13:30 (ESV)

³⁰ **And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”**