

Two Men... Two Prayers... Two Pronouncements

Luke 18:9-14

This parable is about people who trust in themselves, are righteous in their own eyes and think that most other people are worse than them.

Job 6:20-21; Psalm 146:5 & 27:1-4; Prov 20:6; Eccl 7:20

1. Two Men

The Pharisee & the tax collector.

2. Two Prayers

The Pharisee...

(i) self-righteousness by means of comparison to others.

(ii) self-righteousness based upon works.

‘he prayed with himself’

1 Samuel 8:18; Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 59:2

2. Two Prayers

The Tax Collector...

He stands afar off... he's racked with guilt and shame, he almost dare not even be in the temple.

He cannot bring himself to look heavenwards so aware of his sin is he as he stands before the Holy God.

He beats his breast which is a mark of his conviction of his sins and guilt and of his contrition and repentance.

He confesses his sins and cries out to God for mercy.

3. Two Pronouncements

The tax collector went home justified and the Pharisee did not!

Psalm 25:8-11