**Everyday Stories of Jesus – Lk. 18:9,14**

**Focal Truth: God justifies the sinner who confesses his sin**

The Lord Jesus reminds us that self – promotion is sin – Lk 14 – Story of the guests at dinner

The Lord Jesus reminds us that self – righteousness is sin – Lk 18 – story of Pharisee & Publican

**Observations**

1. **The self – righteous convince themselves they are righteous 18:9**

*Who trusted in themselves they were righteous*

1. The self – righteous trust = persuade themselves of righteousness
2. The self – righteous believe they are not sinners
3. The self – righteous deny any guilt for their sinfulness
4. The self – righteous refuse responsibility for their sinfulness

Jer. 17:9 – *the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked who can know it?*

***Consider***

* Remember how deceitful your mind regarding your sinfulness
* Remember how wicked your old sinful nature is & the great capacity to sin
* Remember you cannot convince yourself that you are righteous in your self
1. **The self – righteous convince themselves they are superior to others 18:9**

*and viewed others with contempt*

1. The self – righteous view others as inferior to them
2. The self – righteous treat others as insignificant & unimportant
3. The self – righteous disrespect others
4. The self – righteous judge others
5. The self – righteous justify themselves as righteous

Lk. 10:29 – the self – righteous scribe – *but wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, who is my neighbor?*

Lk. 16:15 – *you are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts*

**Consider**

* Pride & arrogance are the marks of self – righteousness
* Religious performance is the mark of the self – righteous
1. **The self -righteous convince themselves they are justified by their works 18:11 -12**

*God, thank you that I am not like other people. Swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.*

1. The self – righteous pray in self – assurance

***God thank you that I am not like other people****…*

1. The self – righteous refuse to confess their sinfulness
2. The self -righteous tell God what they have done in pride

*I am not like other people. Swindlers, unjust, adulterers…I fast twice a week, I pay tithes of all I get*

1. The self – righteous speak with contempt of others even in their prayers

***Or even like this tax collectors***

Rom. 3:20 – by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in his sight, for through

 Law comes the knowledge of sin

 **Consider**

* Be watchful not to pray in boastful self – righteousness
* God does not hear the boastful prayers of the self – righteous
* If you tell God your deeds you are praying in self –righteous
1. **God justifies the sinner who confesses his sinfulness 18:13 – 14**

*God be merciful to me, the sinner! I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other, Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted*

1. The justified man knows his sinfulness

*he was beating his breast…*

1. The justified man comes to God asking for mercy in his sinfulness

*God be merciful to me….*

1. The justified man confesses that he has sinned & is a sinner

*God be merciful to me a sinner*

He cries mercy me! – be propitious, be gracious – reconcile me!

1. The justified is exalted when God justifies him!

*he who humbles himself*

***Consider***

* God justifies the confessing sinner
* The cry for mercy is the cry for forgiveness for sin
* Sinners confess their sin – God justifies the confessing sinner

Rom. 3:27 – 28 – *where then is the boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.*

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. **The self – righteous are not righteous**
2. **Selfish pride produces self – righteousness**
3. **Do not think more highly of yourself than God thinks of you!**

**Rom. 12:3**

1. **God gives grace to the humble – he who humbles himself will be exalted**

**James 4:6**

*I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other, for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted*

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**