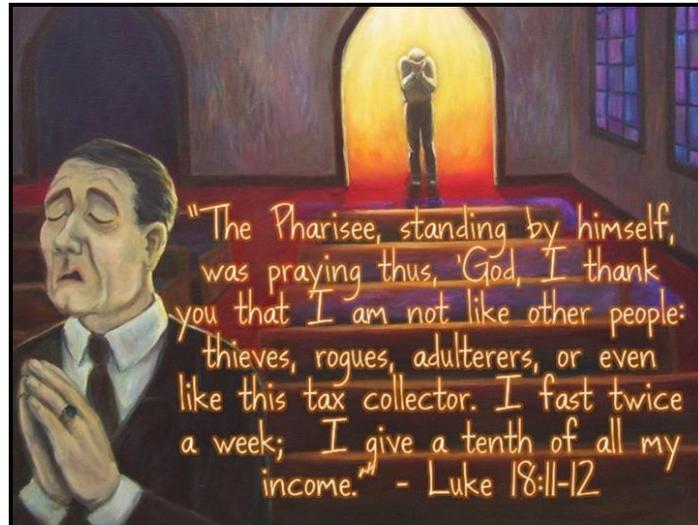


# SPRING QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2016

## THEME: FORSAKING ALL I TRUST HIM...THE FAITH STORY UNIT THREE – “FULLNESS OF FAITH”

### “THE SUCCESS OF A FAITHFUL PRAYER VERSUS THE FAILURE OF A PRIDEFUL PRAYER”



#### Sunday School Lesson No. XI – May 15, 2016 Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

**Lesson Text:** Luke 18:9-14

**Required Reading:** Luke Chapter 18

**Motto Text:** Luke 18:14 (NLT), *“I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”*

**Reliable Resources:** What the Bible Teaches by R. A. Torrey; New Pilgrim Edition Study Bible; Easton’s Illustrated Dictionary; Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Wilmington’s Bible Handbook; Standard Lesson Commentary; Precepts for Living (UMI Publishing); Master Outlines from “The Open Bible” Thomas Nelson; The Outline Bible by H. L. Wilmington; Analytical Bible Expositor by Butler

#### INTRODUCTION

Quoting Precepts for Living: “Public prayer offers a forum for people to be drawn humbly into God’s presence. At times, however, public prayer can be a platform for individuals to showcase eloquence, education training, or new attire. All prayer is not created equal.”

I am reminded of my childhood and adolescent days when my home church met on Monday nights for one hour to pray. I heard a myriad of prayers from various personalities, but the thing that helps me to this day was that most people prayed openly and from the depths of their hearts. The small group prayer time was not to impress others but to release all our cares unto the only one who could help, and that was our Lord! I Peter 5:7 says it best: *“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”*

Our lesson this week spotlights two kinds of prayers. One prayed by a man who showcased pride in his delivery (Pharisee). The other was a man who presented his prayers with humility and sought the mercy of God. Jesus presented this in the form of a parable. The end result was to help His hearers discern the correct or incorrect manner to approach the Lord in prayer to receive God’s answer. Beloved, which of these prayer presenters describe your prayerful presentation to God?

#### **Anticipated Power Points:**

- **The Setting.** Luke 18:9-10
- **The Haughty.** Luke 18:11-12
- **The Humble.** Luke 18:13
- **The Summary.** Luke 18:14

## LESSON OUTLINE

### “The Success of a Faithful Prayer Versus the Failure of a Proud Prayer”

#### **I. The Setting. Luke 18:9-10**

According to the Life Application Commentary, “After encouraging the disciples to be persistent in prayer (18:1-8), Jesus taught them with a parable, how to pray. This parable sharply contrasts the prayer of a Pharisee with that of a tax collector.” According to Butler, “The Pharisee in this parable represented those who ‘trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others (Luke 18:9).’ Self-righteousness often leads to looking down on others and scorning them.”

#### **II. The Haughty. Luke 18:11-12**

This is my description of the Pharisee, one who is haughty according to dictionary.com, “*disdainfully proud, snobbish; scornfully arrogant.*” The Analytical Bible Expositor by Butler describes this haughty fellow as follows:

- “His practice...the Pharisee’s habit of prayer.  
First, a customary practice.  
Second, a corrupt practice...Matt. 23
- His posture. ‘The Pharisee stood’ (Lu. 18:11)  
...to be seen of men
- His prayer. Luke 18:11  
First, the soliloquy, ‘he prayed thus with himself.’  
Second, the starting of the prayer...It sounded really good.  
Third, the self-obsession in the prayer...5 times ‘I’ occurs.  
Fourth, the sanctity reported in the prayer. (Luke 18:11)...but what about the sin of pride and despising others, such as the publican?  
Fifth, the scorning found in the prayer... (Luke 18:11)  
Sixth, the service reported in the prayer. Luke 18:12...In both fasting and tithing he went beyond the requirements stated in the Scriptures...But in God’s sight, he was a very wicked man.”

#### **III. The Humble. Luke 18:13**

The Bible now records the Lord’s testimony of the Publican, who was hated and despised by the Jews, because he was a Jew who worked for the Romans to collect and even extort money from his own people. Note him as he appears to pray and worship. According to the Analytical Bible Expositor by Butler:

- “His position. Publican (Luke 18:10)
- His place. ‘Standing afar off’ Luke 18:13) being conscious of his unworthiness...
- His posture. Luke 18:13
- His pounding. Luke 18:13
- His prayer. First, the direction of the prayer, ‘God’. Luke 18:13  
The publican went to the right source for help...  
Second, the desire in the prayer... ‘Be merciful to me’  
Third, the declaration in the prayer, ‘A sinner’”

#### **IV. The Summary. Luke 18:14**

Jesus summarizes the prayers of both men and found the Pharisee lacking true faithfulness in his prayer. The Pharisee who prayed with himself and looked down on the publican, left without God’s blessing. But the lowly publican left the place of prayer with the praise of God and truly success because of his sincere humility and reverence of God! Proverbs 16:18, “*Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*” The Proverb writer also says in 18:16, “*A man’s gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.*” The greatest gift we can receive is the gift of God’s Amazing Grace!

#### **CLOSING**

The true success of a faithful prayer versus the failure of a proud prayer is centered in total humility before the Lord!

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**Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA and Little Bethel Baptist Church, Amite, LA**

**Mailing Address: Post Office Box 19768, New Orleans, LA 70179-0768**

**Phone: (504) 486-7876      Email: [bible32@bellsouth.net](mailto:bible32@bellsouth.net)**

**Website: [www.thestudyhour.com](http://www.thestudyhour.com)**

**TV Broadcast: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.**



**Looking Ahead:**

**May 22, 2016**

**Luke 18:15-17**

**Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway as Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School Lesson**