October 27, 2019

Scripture

Luke 18:9-14
Jesus addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else.
"Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, 'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity -- greedy, dishonest, adulterous -- or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.' But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.' I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Our Scripture Reflection

The Pharisee in the eyes of man was a righteous creature, not like sinners, especially the guy in the back of the room. He goes above and beyond what is required by the religious Law on fasting and tithing. What a great guy he and many others think he is! But God knows differently. He Who sees all knows all. He knows that the only righteous man in the Temple that day was the miserable tax collector who out of humility, dares not step to the front of the prayer room. Jesus said that only that man left the Temple in God’s favor. His message? Be of the same heart as him.
Food for your Journey

My wife and I recently had a college student and the girl he was dating over to our house for lunch on a Sunday. As we October 27, 2019

Scripture
Luke 18:9-14

Jesus addressed this parable
to those who were convinced of their own righteousness
and despised everyone else.
"Two people went up to the temple area to pray;
one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector.
The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself,
'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity --
greedy, dishonest, adulterous -- or even like this tax collector.
I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.'

But the tax collector stood off at a distance
and would not even raise his eyes to heaven
but beat his breast and prayed,
'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.'
I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former;
for whoever exalts himself will be humbled,
and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Our Scripture Reflection
The Pharisee in the eyes of man was a righteous creature, not like sinners, especially the guy in the back of the room. He goes above and beyond what is required by the religious Law on fasting and tithing. What a great guy he and many others think he is!
But God knows differently. He Who sees all knows all. He knows that the only righteous man in the Temple that day was the miserable tax collector who out of humility, dares not step to the front of the prayer room. Jesus said that only that man left the Temple in God's favor. His message? Be of the same heart as him.

Food for your Journey
My wife and I recently had a college student and the girl he was dating over to our house for lunch on a Sunday. As we started to relax, I said, "Why don't you take your coat off?" I'd already taken off my tie and coat. The young man kind of hem-hawed a round, however, as if he didn't want to do it. Finally, he got me off in a corner and said, reminding me of an old trick I knew well when I was in college, "The only parts of my shirt I ironed were the cuffs and the collar." He had pressed just the parts that showed. The rest of the shirt looked as if he had ironed it with a weedeater! That was the way of the Pharisees: the part people could see looked great, but a weedeater appeared to have done the ironing on the inside.

--Mike Cope,
Righteousness Inside Out

A Prayer from the Heart

Merciful Father, You created me and You know everything about me. At times I act as a hypocrite, living my life to impress others. How foolish such an effort is! Lord, keep me honest and humble. May I strive each day to be the person You created me to be and in doing so may I give true witness to You. Amen.
ed to relax, I said, "Why don't you take your coat off?" I'd already
taken off my tie and coat. The young man kind of hem-hawed around, however, as if he didn't want to do it. Finally, he got me off in a corner and said, reminding me of an old trick I knew well when I was in college, "The only parts of my shirt I ironed were the cuffs and the collar." He had pressed just the parts that showed. The rest of the shirt looked as if he had ironed it with a weedeater! That was the way of the Pharisees: the part people could see looked great, but a weedeater appeared to have done the ironing on the inside.

--Mike Cope,
Righteousness Inside Out
A Prayer from the Heart
Merciful Father, You created me and You know everything about me. At times I act as a hypocrite, living my life to impress others. How foolish such an effort is! Lord, keep me honest and humble. May I strive each day to be the person You created me to be and in doing so may I give true witness to You. Amen