

Sunday, September 5, 2021
"Stories of Kingdom Grace"
Summary of the Pharisee and the Publican
Luke 18:9-14
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The Pharisee's prayer is illustrative of the prayer God won't answer. Jesus tells us why: *'The Pharisee stood and was praying to himself'* (11). Certainly the prayer he prayed never reached God. It was confined to his closed inner chamber of self-sufficiency. He addressed God, but his rhythms of self-sufficiency went unheard by God. They contradicted the basic qualification of a 'humble and contrite heart.' The pride of the Pharisee was based on his lack of need for God. He didn't need God to help him accomplish his limited view of righteousness. The publican's prayer, however, is a startling contrast. He desperately needed God (13). The tax-gatherer saw himself as the greatest of sinners. The conclusion of the parable reveals how God responded to the praying of the Pharisee and the prayer of the publican. He did not hear or respond to the pride of the Pharisee. The humility of the publican was recognized and given the ultimate gift: justification. The Pharisee went to his home unjustified, while the publican was justified. Humility opens the floodgates of the heart of God.

prayer.

Redeemer
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