

Be Merciful to Me

Joseph Carty / General

The Power of Prayer / Prayer; Humility; Forgiveness / Luke 18:13

Many people when they are asked to pray publicly feel shy to do so. Why are we so afraid to pray out loud? What is God really looking for in a prayer life? We will see that it is fully within reach of the most baby Christian.

Two Men

- two extremes

Tax Collector

- popular opinion
 - most wicked

Luke 15:1-2 ESV

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

- Bottom of Barrel
 - scum of the earth.
- Self-respecting person
 - not be see
 - near them.
- Jesus opinion different:

Matthew 21:31 ESV

Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.

- Jesus believed
 - in repentant sinners.

Pharisee

- **Popular opinion:**
 - Very Pious

- Extremely Righteous
- Little Extreme
- Little Legalistic
 - But very Holy
- Well Respected
- Held in High Regard

Self-righteous Prayer

Standing By Himself

- Why?
 - too holy
 - for all others!

Not Like Other Men

- Other Men
 - extortioners
 - unjust

- adulterer
 - Tax Collector

- How does he judge
 - his own righteousness?

- Comparison
 - other people.

- Where is his mind?
 - On people
 - **NOT God**

- They are wicked
 - So he is righteous

The Accuser

- Last Sermon
 - Satan

- Pharisee
 - Same work...
- Whose side?
 - with God?
 - with Satan?
- **Cannot reach God.**

My Good Deeds

- List of things I DO
 - fast 2 week
 - return tithes
 - etc...
- My Works Don't Save

Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- Focused on his works
 - can't save

Place of Works?

James 2:20 ESV

Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

- Faith
 - utter dependence
 - Christ for salvation
- Works
 - Actions resulting
 - love with Christ

Philippians 2:12 ESV

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

- Works always accompany

- truth faith.

- Through what power?

- Next verse:

Philippians 2:13 ESV

for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

- “God works in you”

- Christ’s life

- in ours.

Righteousness of the Pharisees

- “Very Pious”

- not God’s works...

Matthew 5:20 ESV

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

- Source of Righteousness?

Matthew 23:5 ESV

They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long,

- All for show.
 - Not genuine.

Humble Prayer

Stands Far Off

- Why?
 - Unworthy
 - Ashamed
 - Guilt
- Prayer Intense

- don't want others
- to see him pray
- desperate prayer

Eyes Down

- Unworthy?
- How to approach God.

Hebrews 4:16 ESV

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- Our High Priest
 - He long to forgive
 - He understands

Fell On His Face

- Bible stories
 - Abraham 2x
 - Moses 2x

- Balaam
- Joshua 2x
- Daniel
- Jesus

How to approach God?

- With humility
- Claiming Promises

Beats Chest

- Deep Emotion
 - Moved with anguish
- He understand
 - hurt of sin

The Signs of the Times May 27, 1903: Man's Responsibility

In the light shining from Calvary you will see the sinfulness of sin, and you will see also God's willingness and power to save from sin.

- Sin is a big deal
 - but...
- Christ longs to save.
- Beg his merits.

Who Was Justified?

- Penitent
- Humble

Cain and Able

Cain

- No repentance
- No penitence
- No humility

- No recognition of condition
- Proud of works
 - (Vegetables)

Able

- Humble
- repentant
- In need
- Claim: Blood of Lamb
- No righteous works

Who Justified?

Genesis 4:4-5 ESV

and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

- Respect?
- Fire
- Visible?

- Why Cain angry?
 - Because not accepted
 - Because Able accepted
 - instead of repenting
 - kill the righteous!!!

Modern Psychology

- Values and Morals
- Where to get them from.
 - NOT THE BIBLE...

To make the inventory, simply ask yourself what you want from life. Explore your wants and desires in depth.

List out what you value, what you want from life and how you want to live.

Social Morals

Humanist psychologists propose that people have an innate sense of values and personal preferences that tends to get buried under layers of social demands and expectations (social morals). Part of the human journey involves the gradual rediscovery of these innate and highly personal desires, which get unconsciously hidden away when they are seen to conflict with society's demands.

You may have a desire to do artwork, but you become a banker instead simply because this pleases your perfectionist and worried parents. You may have homosexual inclinations, but get married (to an opposite sex spouse) and have children, simply because to do otherwise in your family and community would be unheard of and shameful.

- Don't let society decide
 - (True)
- Let your heart!
- **Follow Your Heart!**
- **If you feel gay, be gay.**
- **If you feel you are a woman trapped in a mans body be woman.**

Complete Garbage!!!

- Morals

- come from God
- can't make them
- Works
 - (power to live morals)
 - come from God
 - can't do them alone.

Sense of Need

The sense of need, the recognition of our poverty and sin, is the very first condition of acceptance with God. — COL 152

Sense of need:

- forgiveness
- power

Matthew 5:3 **ESV**

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- Those who recognize need.

Appeal

- Recognize Your Need
- Come to God Broken
- Come through His Promises
- Leave Justified