

12/12/85 AM

IT'S HARD TO BE HUMBLE

TEXT: Luke 18:9-14

INTRODUCTION:

A. The worst "ism" facing us is not Communism, liberalism, racism, or materialism, but egotism.

1. It made the devil , the devil. - See Isa. 14:13-14.
2. It is the first of the seven sins that are an abomination to God. See Prov. 6:16-19 - "A proud look..."
3. It precedes destruction
"Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." - Prov. 16:18.

B. Humility is given divine approval.

1. See Isa. 57:15
2. Prov. 16:19 - "Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud."
3. MT. 18:4 Jesus said- "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."
4. See - I Pe 5:5-6

C. Two kinds of Pride

1. **Virtue Pride** - Webster, "Pride may be commendatory in indicating a justified self-esteem proper self respect or dislike of falling below one's standards that spurs one on, bouys one up or checks one from base decisions.

2. **Vain Pride** - Webster, "An unjustified self esteem, arising from a false, inflated and pretentious sense of one's worth, culminating in arrogant conceit."

D. The Parable of Jesus, about a Pharisee and a Publican deals with this second kind of pride.

I. WE SEE THE KING OF SINS.

A. The Pharisee thanked God that he was not like other men.

1. Extortioners - one who steals or takes by force.

a. Prov. 27:20 - "Hell and destruction are never full: so the eyes of man are never satisfied."

b. I Tim. 6:10 - "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

2. Unjust - to be unrighteous and wicked

a. a good description of the Publican. - *fraudulent tax collector taking from his own*

b. He had made himself rich at the expense of others in the name of the law. *The Jews*

3. Adulterer - one who commits adultery.

a. Exod. 20:14

b. Marriage is the cornerstone of our society. Adultery is one thing that Jesus said can break the bonds of marriage therefore it is a great sin.

4. All of these things violate the basic laws of God. Could anything be worse than this trinity of evil? Yes, Pride.

B. The greatest sin is to be conscious of none.

1. The Pharisee never was conscious of his sin and never repented.

2. Pride leaves no room for repentance which makes it most dangerous because it is the one sin least likely to be confessed and forsaken.

II. WE SEE THE NULLIFICATION OF VIRTUES

A. Not only did the Pharisee abstain from evil,
but he also had many positive virtues.

1. He attended worship. - Luke 18:10

2. He was a man of prayer. - Luke 18:11

3. He fasted twice a week. - ^{Luke}~~Mat~~ 18:12

4. He tithed on all he possessed. - ^{Luke}18:12

B. All of these acts were comendable but they became a point
of pride their value was nullified.

1. Thomas Becket - "What is life's greatest treason?
But to do the right thing for the wrong
reason."

2. Regardless of all other virtues in our lives we must add
humility. Without it we nullify all the other good we may
do.

See Micah 6:8 & James 4:10

III. WE SEE THE LOSS OF JUSTIFICATION

A. The Publican repented in humility and went down to his house justified. - Luke 18:14

B. Pride prevented the Pharisee from going down to his house justified.

1. He went home dignified but not justified.

C. Justification is the most important Bible doctrine.

It means to be acquitted, to be found not guilty.

Verses that teach this:

See Acts 13:39 - *Paul Preaching at Antioch.*

See Rom. 5:1

See I Cor 6:11

See Gal. 3:24

D. Jesus not only gave us an illustration of pride but two examples of humility.

1. The Publican - Luke 18:13 - *looked down, asked God for mercy, the reason needed mercy sinner*

2. The Child - Luke 18:17 - *humble, trusting, no status*

E. When we look at the cross, there is no place for pride.

See Phil. 2:8

See Heb. 12:1-2

- *only way God will be able to use you if humble.*
- *only way for a person to get saved to be humble - realize you a sinner; need a Saviour -*
- *The Publican did as result went down to his house justified.*
- *The Pharisee did not as a result in hell today.*
- *Pride send people to hell - want to get saved*
- *Satan - King over all the children of pride - Job 41:34*