



Bible-based. Christ-centered. Family-focused. Mission-minded.

Welcome! We're glad you are here!

Sunday - April 28, 2024

Is Luke 18 the "Sinner's Prayer"?

by Troy Spradlin

Luke records Jesus teaching that *"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector"* (Luke 18:9-14). Of these two men, the Pharisee boasted pridefully while he was praying, even thanking God that he wasn't *"as this tax collector."* It's a rather shocking and sad "prayer," to say the least! Meanwhile, the tax collector (who was reviled in Jewish society) was *"standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'"* Of these two men that Jesus used as an example, He said of the tax collector, *"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified ..."* (18:14). What does Jesus mean by "justified"? Is He saying that the tax collector is saved by saying that prayer? Is this an example of the "Sinner's Prayer"? Let's find out!

What is being Justified?

The word *justified* means "to render, declare, or pronounce one to be just, or righteous." Some Christian theologians explain it as "the act by which God moves a willing person from the state of sin (injustice) to the state of grace, or righteousness (justice)." I also like how some people say that the word *justified* means God looks at me **just-if-I'd never sinned**. So, the tax collector was pleading with God to have mercy on him because he was a sinner. He had committed an injustice. We can easily infer that the result of that man's prayer was God counted him as righteous (no longer a sinner) when he left the temple.



Saying a Prayer Can Justify You

As always, context plays a significant role in the correct understanding of a passage. First of all, notice how Luke describes Jesus' teaching. Luke says, *"He spoke **this parable** to some **who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others.**"* Why did Luke put that information in there? To give context! It is a lesson about pride, not about salvation. Secondly, these two men were Jewish, who were in the temple praying. They are not unbelievers asking God to accept them, or to save them. They are already part of God's chosen people (Deut 14:2), who are praying.

Sometimes, God's faithful people sin and need to be justified. 1 John 1:9 says, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* John is writing to Christians - people who are already saved. He isn't writing to non-believers seeking salvation. This is the same application as the tax collector's prayer. He sinned and was praying for forgiveness. In that context, saying a prayer can justify someone.

Saying a Prayer Will NOT Save You

As much as those who claim and believe that this is an example of "The Sinner's Prayer" in the Bible - even ridiculing those of us who disagree - it does not make their claim true. They are ignoring the context and reading something into the passage that simply isn't there - primarily, the word "salvation." Again, these men were already part of God's covenant - meaning that they were already accepted by God through being born into the Israel nation. But when they sinned, they needed to correct that sin. The tax-collector was not asking to be saved, he knew he had sinned, so he entreated God through humble supplication to forgive him. Remember, God's people had to ask and bring sacrifices for forgiveness (read Leviticus chapters 4-16), implying that their sin needed to be recognized.

We no longer live under that old covenant - that was for the Jews. In the New Covenant (Luke 22:20), if one wants to be part of God's family (meaning being justified, or saved) one must appeal to God through obeying the Gospel (Acts 22:16; 2 Thess 1:8; Rom 6:17). Therefore, it is an abuse of this passage to make this prayer of the tax-collector a statement of what an alien sinner should do to be saved. Just saying a prayer will not save someone.

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MSYG EVENTS & INFO

Kingdom Kids Parent Meeting

Sunday, May 5th 4:45 pm
Memory Classroom

CHILD CARE WILL BE PROVIDED

Excited to Plan!

JULY 27

Vacation Bible School

Join us for our
2024 GRADUATION BANQUET

Sunday, May 5 | 6 pm Service | Banquet to Follow

YG BIRTHDAY NIGHT

Wed. May 22nd

4:30 pm in the FH



MSYG Summer Kickoff

June 4

Register by April 15th to save \$15

GULF COAST BIBLE CAMP
EST. 1966
LUCEDALE, MS

Summer 2024

Check out our dates

Gulf Coast Bible Camp
120 Bible Camp Road
Lucedale, MS 39452

Camp Sessions & Dates:

- Baldwin County Week:** May 26 - 31 (1st-12th grade)
- Gulf Coast Week:** June 2 - 7 (1st-12th grade)
- Middle & High School Week:** June 9 - 14 (6th-12th grade)
- Junior Week:** June 23 - 26 (1st-5th grade)
- Hattiesburg Week:** July 7 - 12 (1st-12th grade)

register at gulfcoastbiblecamp.com

MISSIONSIPPI

AT NEW HOPE

★ JULY 13-18 ★

GILEGACY

YEAR THREE · JULY 18-21 2024


Sign up & pay by April 28th

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." - John 14:6

Digital access to our Calendars on your computer or personal device.

Scan this QR Code for the Church Calendar on teamup.com



CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Recent/Urgent Requests

- Joe Bartell* - hip replacement, recovery
- Cassie Buchanant* - recovery, PT outside
- Sherry Davis* - physical/mental comfort
- Wilfred Derrick - kidney failure (Renee Ray*)
- Richard Fisher* - back surgery, recovery
- Patrick Johnson - upcoming surg. (McGriff*)
- Josie Locklin* - pacemaker, recovery
- Gloria Martin* - humerus broken, recovery
- Donald McGriff* - health, prayers
- Mary McGriff* - upcoming test, prayers
- Newcomb family - birth of Gemma Grey!
- Sharon Parker* - seizures, upcoming surgery
- Clark Smith - recovery, prayers
- Edwina Sumrall - broken tailbone, prayers
- Debbie Rivers - surgery soon (Jak G.* sister)
- Ted Russell* - stent replaced, recovery
- James Williamson - heart surgery (Roxanne P)
- Deanna Wilson* - prayers/encouragement

Grieving a Loss

- Terry Baxley* - passing of Darlene
- Bostwick* family - loss of mom, Kandi
- Winston & Lola Burnham - loss of Brooks Ann
- Hatcher family* - loss of mom, Rachel Sullins
- Judy Jennings and family* - loss of Terry
- Lanya Lester and family - loss of mom, Renee
- Paul Lipford and family - loss of mother
- Linda Loftin* and family - loss of Jim*
- Scott Shanahan - loss of Scott's father, Kevin
- Gloria Vonada & family - loss of Troy*

Assisted Living / Shut-Ins / Rehab

- Ron Bartanen* - Victorian Manor
- Dennis Brice - hospice (Gary Coleman*)
- Sherryn Canniff* - homebound
- Sherry Davis* - Memory Care (Davis/Napier*)
- Donna Dudley - Life Care Center (S. Davis*)
- Annie Favorite - Haven (Mary Lou's mom)
- Bobbie Garcia* - Fort Walton Beach
- Linda Mann* - Shut In
- Peggy Masoner - Santa Rosa Health Care
- Larry McDaniel* - Santa Rosa Rehab
- Ina Ruth Miller* - Coral Bay of Pensacola
- Ruth Phillips* - Shut In
- Jim Pitts - Daphne, AL
- Lillian Raines* - Victorian Manor
- Faye Smith - Shut in (J.English mom)
- Marlene Smith - (Fulton*)

Other Requests / Health Issues

- Sharon Ates - upcoming surg. (Gallagher*)
- Gerry Baldwin - health (J.Pace sister)
- Louie Bond - knee surgery, recovery
- John & Gale Broadfoot - health
- Rachel Bugsby - heart surgery, recovery
- Robbie Bullard - aneurysm/defect valve (Lee*)
- Janice Carter* - mobility, prayers
- Keturah Dickey - MS (K. Longmire*)
- Laura Elliot - (S. Lee* mom)
- Myrna Fuller* - pulmonary fibrosis
- Steve Fulton - pain, health difficulties
- Dixie Gorham - heart failure
- Scott Graham* - back pain
- Edwina Harris - health (J.Pace sister)
- Jackie Hamilton - severe health issue (McGriff*)
- Chris Hollins - health, test (McGriff*)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's* friend)
- Joe Lewis - lupus
- Josie Locklin* - fractured vertebrae, health
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes*)
- Victoria Martinez - thyroid, prayers
- Ron Miller - esophagus infection (Ina Ruth*)
- Jeffery Norman - transplant list (Nunes*)
- Patsy Prince - health struggles (Burnham*)
- Otis & Eleanor Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Kara Ritchie - blood disorder (M.Scott*)
- Glenn Rose - heart problems (Garcia*)
- Jennifer Salter - surgery, recovery (Ruth W.*)
- Rodger Schwitzerlett - (Gallagher*)
- Edith Sullins - @ home, recovery (Hatcher*)
- Donnie Turner - (Helms*)
- Willie Waitman Jr. - leg amputation (Pace)

Military

- John Bartell - Washington, DC
- Spencer England - Jacksonville, FL
- Javanta Johnson - NAS Jacksonville Airforce
- Spencer Gable - New London, Groton, CT
- Amya Huey* - Italy
- Ni Mack - Kansas

Mission Works

- Shanahans* - Mission Italy
- Eliezer Perez - San Lorenzo, Paraguay
- Trevor Smoot - Domestic Missions
- Sebastain Garcia - Brazil
- SRC Correctional Institute

Cancer

- Mike Anderson - (Warrington)
- Misty Bray* - (Bird*)
- Jimmy Calhoun - (Mike Scott*)
- Tish Clark - (Hatcher*)
- Lynn Colada - (Ted's sister)
- Jack Davis*
- Sheryl Downy - (Burnham*)
- Eddie English - (R.English*)
- Timothy Ezzell - former member
- Chris Hendrix - (Baxley*)
- Ricky Jenning - (McGriff*)
- Lisa (Dixon) Johnson - (McGriff*)
- Tierney Lancaster - rare blood (Baxley*)
- Evergena Larkin - final stages (McGriff*)
- Greg Lewis* - lung cancer
- Connie Moore - (Fulton*)
- Karen Parker - (Spradlin* friend)
- Ariel Perry - throat (Hatcher)
- Karen Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Mary Lee Smith - (McGriff*)
- Meg Stojanik - (Hatcher*)
- Reynold Voeltz - (Boughton's friend)
- David Walther - brain (English*)
- Kellie (Wiggins) Ward - (former mem.)
- Eli Whitney* - prostate
- Daisy Jean Williams - (J.Pace)

Students in College

- Haley Bartell
- Seth Crider
- Stephen English
- Caitlyn Frizzell
- Jackson Lash
- Caleb Owens
- Savannah Smith
- LizAnn Webb
- Nick Webb
- Lily Weathersbee
- Reed Wilson
- Lexi Wildes

Recently Baptized/Restored/Identified

- Makenley Hitchcock* - Baptized 12/31/23
- Debbie Gill* - Baptized 1/23/24
- Savannah Smith* - Baptized 1/31/24
- Brad & Amy Turner* - Baptized 2/18/24
- Logan Ray* - Baptized 2/25/24
- Dawson Hitchcock* - Restored 12/31/23
- Joe and Gloria Martin* - Identified 2/4/24
- Billy and Heidi Hugins* - Identified 4/21/24

Expectant Mothers

- Tara Henry - May 2024
- Lauren Godwin - August 2024



SERVING WITH HONOR
SUNDAY, APRIL 28

MORNING

Opening Prayer Steve Fulton
 Song Director Elliot Wilson
 Sermon Troy Spradlin
 "Eating at the King's Table"
 Scripture Reading Trevor Bostwick
 Matthew 22:1-14
 Closing Prayer Doug Lee

Serving Communion (Left - Right):

Brody Crider Luke McReynolds
 Holden Raley Gabriel Lee
 Dalton Lester (Balcony)
 Comments Rick Bird

EVENING

Opening Prayer Song/Prayer Service
 Singing Song/Prayer Service
 Scripture Song/Prayer Service
 Song/Prayer Service
 Comments Song/Prayer Service

Worship Service and Preparation:

Communion Prep Jennings Family
 PowerPoint Matt McReynolds
 Greeters Jak Gallagher
 Secure Building Richard McCool

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Song Director David English
 Opening Prayer Pete Pierce

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Sunday Bible Class 177
 AM Worship 240
 PM Worship 278
 Wed. Night Bible Class 164
 Contribution \$9,015
Weekly Budget : \$11,558

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday AM Bible Class 9:00 am
 Sunday AM Worship 10:00 am
 Sunday PM Classes, Worship . 6:00 pm
 Wednesday PM Bible Class 6:30 pm

Visitors:

Thank you for coming!
You are our honored guest!

For more information about the church, spiritual topics, our classes, and activities, there is a tract rack at the entrance of the auditorium for your convenience.
 Or, ask any member for assistance.
Please take a moment to fill out a visitors card, or sign our guest book so that we might have a record of your attendance. Thank you!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

- Deadline for all bulletin items is **Thursday, by noon.**
- If interested in utilizing the library, please reserve with Blisse or Lisa.
- Apologetics Press Study Bibles available for purchase - see Blisse.
- **Reminder:** If you use online giving, please consider covering the processing fees as part of you contribution.



FOOD PANTRY

- Food Pickup : 5/7/24 @ 9:30 AM
- Preparing Boxes:
 - 5/7/24 @ 5:30 PM
 - 5/8/24 @ 9:30 AM
- Distribution : 5/9/24 @ 2:30 PM

EDUCATION

- Adult and Children Bible classes available on Sundays @ 9 AM and Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM.
- Willing to teach? See Chris Davis!



OWLS BIBLE STUDY
ANGELS AND DEMONS
 Every Thursdays @ 10:30 AM
 Starting February 1st

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



Scan this QR Code to open webpage for Online Giving

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DEACONS* & MINISTRIES

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 Benevolence..... Dennis Maduell
 Building & Grounds Paul Lipford*
 Education Chris Davis*
 Evangelism Troy Spradlin
 Finance
 Fellowship Jeff Scott*
 Involvement Joe Taylor*
 Lads to Leaders David English
 OWLS Stephen Fulton
 Missions Mike Scott*
 Visitation Bob Locklin
 Mason Chandler
 Kingdom Kids Dane Harrington*
 Worship Blake Hatcher*
 Youth & Family Casey Bearden