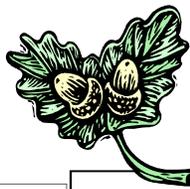


May 15, 2016



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon
Jose Cisneros

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester
Outreach: Joyce Kirkland
Secretary: Mary Clark
Deacon: C M Hester

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
The most powerful position on earth is kneeling before the Lord of the universe

POEM FOR THE WEEK:
My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine;
Now hear me when I pray,
take all my sin away,
O let me from this day be wholly Thine! —
Palmer

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.
(James 4:6 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Aug 28, 2014)

Series: The Gift of Faith

UNIT: Fullness of Faith

NEXT WEEK

Childlike Faith
(Luke 18:15-27; Mark 10:16)

Humble Faith

Luke 18:9-14

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson teaches us that God blesses those who display **Humble Faith**. The study's aim is to recognize pride as a primary source of sinful problems in the world today. The study's application is to adopt a humble spirit in all areas of life.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

I was a good child. I went to church every week, was a good student, participated in many activities, and even volunteered on the side. I was also a braggart. I took pride in my accomplishments, too much so, at times. I tended to parade my deeds like some sort of pedigree. Boasting was common for me. But one day my grandfather silenced my self-aggrandizement. I was in mid-boast when he interrupted me with a single sentence. He looked up and said, "The preacher who preaches of himself has a congregation of one." At first, I did not catch the meaning of this. When he explained it, I was outraged that he would apply the saying to me. However, after considering my actions, I realized that he was right. Since then, that old proverb has stayed in my mind. My problem was that, like the Pharisee in the lesson, I was exalting myself. This Pharisee had "the pedigree." He was someone with the highest standing in the temple. He fasted more than required, tithed every source of income, and was well respected in his community. In contrast, the publican came from the lowest stratum of society. His occupation made him an outcast. Publicans were known for being liars, so he was shunned by respected members of the community. Since he collected taxes for the government, he was hated by almost everyone. We find these two at the temple, praying. However, there is a noticeable difference in their prayers. The Pharisee's prayer was an elaborate laundry list of his accomplishments. His prayer was the equivalent of "Thank God I am not as bad as that person over there!" The Pharisee showed no awareness of sin in his life, let alone remorse or repentance. He did not see his need for God's mercy. His prayer was all for show. The publican's prayer was sincere and honest. His plea was that God would remember him, despite his sinfulness. He did not highlight any good deeds. He did not look for someone with greater sin and try to pass himself off as better than that person. He merely asked that God show him mercy. We know whose prayer God honored. Scripture tells us that it was the publican who went away forgiven that day. Why? The Pharisee's prayer was prideful and self-righteous. The publican's prayer was humble. Humility is one of the great earmarks of a deep faith. We are told that God bestows grace upon the humble (Prov. 3:34) and that He crowns them with salvation (Ps. 149:4). We are also told that humility brings honor to His followers (Prov. 18:12). Proverbs 18:12 also mentions that pride can bring about a person's downfall. We are also told that God resists the proud (Jas. 4:6). Paul goes on to tell us that we should esteem others as better than ourselves (Phil. 2:3). Believers should lift others higher, not take a sanctimonious attitude and bring them down. As the old adage states, "There but for the grace of God go I." We should be so occupied with our own sinfulness that we cannot judge the sins of those around us. Which person are you—self-righteous Pharisee or humble publican? Let us make practicing humility evidence of an authentic faith.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

HUMBLE FAITH TESTED BY TRUST (LUKE 18:9)

Trust not in self (9)

Trust not in self by knowing that God knows the heart and justifies (Luke 16:15)

Trust not in self by knowing that competence is only through God (2 Cor 3:4-6)

Trust not in self by knowing that in weakness God's strength makes us strong (2 Cor 12:9-10)

Trust not in self by knowing that God works in us according to His good purpose (Phil 2:13)

Trust not in self by knowing that all our strength comes from Jesus (Phil 4:13)

Trust not in own righteousness (9)

Trust not in own righteousness because righteousness is only through Jesus (Rom 10:3-4)

Trust not in own righteousness because we shouldn't boast of anything of ourself (1 Cor 1:26-31)

Trust not in own righteousness because righteousness comes from faith in Jesus (Phil 3:8-9)

HUMBLE FAITH VERSUS WORTHINESS (LUKE 18:10-12)

Worthiness comes from God (10-11)

Worthiness a goal because of God's calling (Eph 4:1-2)

Worthiness comes from a renewed attitude of the mind by God (Eph 4:22-24)

Worthiness comes from being transformed by God into being a citizens of Heaven (Phil 3:20-21)

Worthiness is a result of faith (12)

Faith to live a life pleasing to God (Col 1:10)

Faith that clothes us with godly attitudes (Col 3:12)

Faith that comes from humbly accepting the word of God (James 1:21)

Faith that comes from having the wisdom of God (James 3:14-17)

HUMBLE FAITH THROUGH EXAMINING SELF (LUKE 18:13-14)

Examining self to ensure we fear God (13)

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom (Ps 111:10)

Humbly fearing God helps purify from things that contaminates (2 Cor 7:1)

Humbleness comes from a reverence for God (Eph 5:21)

Fearing God is one of man's duties to God (Eccl 12:13)

Fearing God and walking humbly with Him is one of God's requirements of man (Mic 6:8)

Fearing God brings about His favor (2 Chron 33:11-13)

Examining self to realize that without God, we are sinners (13)

Realize that all have sinned and fallen short of God's requirements (Rom 3:23)

Realize that the whole purpose of Jesus coming was for sinners (Matt 9:12-13)

Realize that sin makes us unworthy of being God's child (Luke 15:20-22)

Realize that we deserve punishment as a sinner (Luke 23:39-41)

Realize that if we cannot claim to be without sin (1 John 1:8-10)

Examining self to ensure we are depending on the justification of God (14)

Justification through trusting God (Rom 4:5)

Justification because God is the only answer for justification (Job 25:4)

Justification through faith to have peace with God (Rom 5:1)

Justification through God's sanctification (1 Cor 6:9-11)

Justification through submission to God (James 4:7-10)