

Scripture: The Law of God (Ex. 20) & Luke 18:9-30
Singing: 187:1-4 – 334:1, 4 – 80:1, 2, 4, 5 – 87:1-3 – 192:2-4

TWO WORSHIPPERS IN THE TEMPLE

I. One is rejected II. One is accepted

I. JESUS TAUGHT SOME WORSHIPPERS WILL BE REJECTED

A. Picture Mr. Pharisee and Mr. Publican's worship

1. Mr. Pharisee is confident in his coming and worshipping

2. Mr. Publican is timid in his coming and pleading in worshipping

B. Ponder the *prayer-worship* of Pharisee

1. Is it wrong to thank God for how we live?

2. What was wrong with his worship?
 - a. He worships himself

 - b. He approaches God on his own merits

C. Jesus stunned His audience with His revelation: 9, 14a

II. JESUS TAUGHT THAT SOME WORSHIPPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED

A. Mr. Publican stands as far as possible

1. His life is a great contrast to Mr. Pharisee

2. He does not dare to look up to heaven

3. His prayer is short

B. Jesus again stunned His audience with His revelation: 14a

1. Even the publican would have been stunned to hear this

2. Jesus declared that he was 'justified'
 - a. manner of being justified: Romans 5:1; Gal. 2:16; 3:11

Reflection & Application

A. How could this publican be justified after such an evil life?

B. Jesus teaching today is both *searching* and *comforting*

1. Any trusting in yourself in worshipping God will lead to rejection
 - a. possible to do this *as self-righteous Pharisee* (vs. 11-12)

 - b. but also possible to do this as a *sin-convicted publican*

2. Only basis you can be justified before God: *on basis of Jesus Christ's merits*
 - a. how/where did the publican do this?

 - b. notice that Jesus described his act as *humbling himself*

C. Jesus message is not cheap or shallow: it is amazing and astonishing!

1. How often has He repeated this Gospel promise!

a. smallest exercise of faith **justifies** completely and instantly: Acts 13:39

b. compare John 13:10; 15:3

2. The parable has *one point* (9) yet His teaching is not isolated from Bible

a. Luke 19 tells us about a *real-life* publican

b. Matthew 5:3-9 provides the *whole picture*

c. 1 John 3:3-8 illustrates the 'fruit of new creature'