

**I. Read Luke 18:9-14**

A. In verse 9, we are told that Jesus addressed Himself to a certain sort of person. What sort of person was that?

B. In verse 10, Jesus uses a Pharisee in His parable. Why would He do this?

In verse 10, Jesus cites a tax collector as the second man in his parable. Why?

C. Read the following scriptures and explain how the Pharisee represented something God hates. (Proverbs 6:16-19)

D. Notice in Luke 18:11-12 that the Pharisee's emphasis was all on what he did in comparison to what others did. The point is not that tithing, praying, going *to the temple*, or fasting were bad things, but that true religion is really about what God does for us rather than what we do. What then is true religion? (Read 1 Peter 2:24; Romans 5:8.)

How does the Pharisee miss the boat on true religion?

E. What critically important self-knowledge did the tax collector have that the Pharisee lacked?

How does the tax collector “standing afar off ...” and the fact that he “would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven” demonstrate the proper attitude toward God? (v13, NAS)

F. What is the significance of the tax collector’s plea, “God be merciful to me”? (See Ephesians 2:8, 9.)

G. In verse 14, Jesus speaks of justification. What is justification?

Who justifies us?

On what basis?

How is it received?

H. What is wrong with the following responses to the question “When you die, why will you be allowed into heaven?”

\* “I am basically a good person.”

\* “I have been baptized.”

\* “I don’t think anyone will go to hell; a loving God would not judge us that way.”

\* “Because I have always worked hard to help the church and do my Christian duty.”

What is the proper answer to the questions above?