

Speaker: Mark Brooks
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Reading: Luke 18

v9-14

The Lord told parables to those trusting in themselves to get to heaven.

Is that you? Do you think you are good enough to get to heaven? There is nothing in us that can get us to heaven, it is all about what the Lord Jesus did on the cross.

There was a mixed group gathered to listen to the Lord Jesus. Everything He had to say is relevant to us.

He would show the people there was no good in them.

The Pharisee was religious and respectable, the Publican was a hated taxcollector. The Pharisee compared himself to the world and thought he was above others. He compared with the wrong standard. God's standards are higher than mans. The Publican knew he was a sinner, he was nothing before God. The Publican received mercy depending on what the Lord would do for him. **“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast”**(Eph 2:8,9).

We are not saying that you can't get to heaven but that there is only one way through the cross of Calvary.

v18-27

A rich ruler asks **“what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”** (Luke 18:18). The Lord explains but the man didn't like the answer.

In John 3 we come across Nicodemus, a ruler who came to Jesus by night. He received a message from the Lord which is still relevant to us today. **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”**(John 3:16).

The man here hoped that he could work his way to heaven.

“Lord is good” (Nah 1:7) The Lord was good for He was God. He knew all about the man for He was God.

We may worry about phone hackers but we can't hide from the Lord. He looks on the heart and knows all.

There is no point in an act of church attendance for the Lord knows the heart.

To get eternal life you would need to live a perfect life and keep all the commandments. How many can say they have kept all the commandments? Think of the one **“Honour thy father and thy mother”** (Luke 18:20) you don't need to teach children to say no.

“for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Ro 3:22-23)
We all start from the same place.

“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”(Mark 8:36)
When you die all will be gone and sin will remain.

No money can pay the price of sin. Only price is the blood of Jesus.

Is there anything you wouldn't give up for God?

People want to try the DIY approach. They try good works and hope they will outweigh the bad. There are many DIY disasters due to not following the instructions. The Bible tells of only one way because of the cross yet we won't follow.

They spat on Him, they placed a crown of thorns on His brow, they smote Him with reeds. He was crucified, He was nailed to the cross. He experienced 3 hours of darkness on the cross. He was punished by God for your sins and mine.

Man can't understand these 3 hours. God did this to His Son because He loves you and me. His death has made a way possible to get to heaven.

After life on earth is eternity. Either hell or heaven, can't change after life. Have to decide while here on earth.

All you need to do is accept the gift of salvation God offers.

In contrast the blind beggar v39 received the answer of v42. He put his faith and trust in Christ and followed glorifying God.

For both men was last chance to get right with God. What if tonight was your last chance?

None of us know how long we have to live. “it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment”(Heb 9:27)

God knows at which point your life will end but we don't. We may think we have lots of years ahead. Lu 12:20.

The ruler came in his sins and left in his sins. Is it the same for you?

The gospel message is for the world, the whosoever, for everyone, for you and me.

Rich people can be saved as seen in Zacchaeus(Lu 19:1-10).

You may have secret sins but God knows and God loves you.