

Entering the Kingdom Luke 18:9-17

#1: We Enter the Kingdom Like This Tax Collector (18:9-14)

⁹He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

A. The Pharisee's Self-Righteous Prayer (11-12)

¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’

B. The Tax Collector's Humble Prayer (13)

¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

C. Application (14)

¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

*Two men went to pray; or rather say,
One went to brag, the other to pray;
One stands up close, and treads on high,
Where th' other dare not send his eye.
One nearer to the altar trod,
The other to the altar's God.*

- Richard Crashaw

#2: We Enter the Kingdom Like a Child (18:15-17)

¹⁵Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them.

A. The Command of Jesus (16a)

¹⁶But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.

B. The Community of Jesus (16b)

¹⁶But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29:

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

C. The Clarity of Jesus (17)

¹⁷Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”