

9. So which man went home justified - or right - before God - the Pharisee who was trusting in his good works to get him to heaven or the tax collector who was sorry for the bad things he had done and was asking God to have mercy on him? _____

PUT YOURSELF INTO THE STORY

Who are you in the story? Check one. Are you the:

- ___ Pharisee who thinks he is good enough?
- ___ Tax collector who was hurting because of his sin?
- ___ Somewhere in between the two?

APPLICATION

The tax collector prayed to God.

Why don't you write a prayer to God.

You could ask God to have mercy on you, a sinner, and ask God to forgive and cleanse you of your sin.

Remember, Jesus had to suffer and die for us so that God can be merciful to us and forgive us and cleanse us.

We should thank God for his great mercy and love.

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C Confess



*Confess our sins ... He will
forgive and cleanse us.*

I John 1: 9 (Simplified)

Confess our sins ...
He will forgive and cleanse us.

Instructions: Read the story, then go back and reread the story and answer the questions.

1 John 1:8-9 NLT and Luke 18: 9-14 NIV

The Bible says: *If we say we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth. (?1)*
But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. (?2)

I John 1:8-9 NLT

To some who were confident of their own righteousness (goodness) and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: Luke 18: 9 NIV

10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. (?3)

11 The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: (?4)
'God, I thank you that I am not like other men--robbers, evil-doers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector. (?5)

12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' (?6)

13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast (?7)
and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' (?8)

14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. (?9) For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 18: 10-14 NIV

QUESTIONS

1. If we think that we are not a sinful person, who are we fooling ? _____

2. If we confess - admit - tell God and ourselves the truth about our sins, then God does two things for us:

He _____ and He _____

3. Who were the two men who went to the temple to pray? One was a _____ and the other was a _____ (Today, the Pharisee would be like a leader in a church, and the tax collector would be a thief or person who probably was too embarrassed to even go to church.)

4. What did the Pharisee pray about? _____

5. Who did the Pharisee think he was better than?

6. And what things did the Pharisee do that he thought would make him to be right before God and that would get him into heaven? _____

7. Do you think the tax collector felt badly about the bad things he had and was doing? _____

8. What did the tax collector ask God to do for him?

What do you think the tax collector was depending on to get him to heaven? The word starts with an "m".

He was asking God to have _____ on him.

What do you think it means when you ask for

"mercy"? _____
