

COMPARISON

Comparison

Luke 18

Do you give up in your approach to God? *Hebrews 11:6*

Do we justify ourselves before God? *Isaiah 64:6*

Do we fall into the trap of comparative righteousness?

Do we empty ourselves before God?

Have we left all behind to come to Him?

Have we asked God to give us what we need?

Comparison

Pharisee
Self-righteous

A sinner.
Humble.

Children
Innocence to God

Adults.
Control the situation.

Rich young ruler
Has everything but really has nothing

Jesus.
Has everything but gives it all up.

Crowd
Wanted to keep appearances

Blind beggar
Was determined to get to Jesus

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Comparison

Luke 18

September 22nd, 2019

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Luke 18:1-8 NIV Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’ ⁴ “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’” ⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for His chosen ones, who cry out to Him day and night? Will He keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, He will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

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Luke 18:1-8 MSG Jesus told them a story showing that it was necessary for them to pray consistently and never quit. He said, “There was once a judge in some city who never gave God a thought and cared nothing for people. A widow in that city kept after him: ‘My rights are being violated. Protect me!’” ⁴⁻⁵ “He never gave her the time of day. But after this went on and on he said to himself, ‘I care nothing what God thinks, even less what people think. But because this widow won’t quit badgering me, I’d better do something and see that she gets justice—otherwise I’m going to end up beaten black-and-blue by her pounding.’” ⁶⁻⁸ Then the Master said, “Do you hear what that judge, corrupt as he is, is saying? So what makes you think God won’t step in and work justice for His chosen people, who continue to cry out for help? Won’t He stick up for them? I assure you, He will. He will not drag His feet. But how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on the earth when He returns?”

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Hebrews 11:6 NLT And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him.

Do you give up in your approach to God?

Luke 18:9-14 NLT Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: ¹⁰ “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I’m certainly not like that tax collector!’ ¹² I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’ ¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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Do we justify ourselves before God?

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Isaiah 64:6 NLT We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.

Do we fall into the trap of comparative righteousness?

Luke 18:15-17 NLT One day some parents brought their little children to Jesus so He could touch and bless them. But when the disciples saw this, they scolded the parents for bothering Him. ¹⁶ Then Jesus called for the children and said to the disciples, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. ¹⁷ I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it."

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Do we empty ourselves before God?

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Luke 18:18-30 NLT Once a religious leader asked Jesus this question: "Good Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁹ "Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked him. "Only God is truly good. ²⁰ But to answer your question, you know the commandments: 'You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. Honor your father and mother.'" ²¹ The man replied, "I've obeyed all these commandments since I was young." ²² When Jesus heard his answer, He said, "There is still one thing you haven't done. Sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²³ But when the man heard this he became very sad, for he was very rich. ²⁴ When Jesus saw this, He said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God! ²⁵ In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!" ²⁶ Those who heard this said, "Then who in the world can be saved?" ²⁷ He replied, "What is impossible for people is possible with God." ²⁸ Peter said, "We've left our homes to follow you." ²⁹ "Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the Kingdom of God, ³⁰ will be repaid many times over in this life, and will have eternal life in the world to come."

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Have we left all behind to come to Him?

Luke 18:31-34 NLT Taking the twelve disciples aside, Jesus said, “Listen, we’re going up to Jerusalem, where all the predictions of the prophets concerning the Son of Man will come true. ³² He will be handed over to the Romans, and He will be mocked, treated shamefully, and spit upon. ³³ They will flog Him with a whip and kill Him, but on the third day He will rise again.” ³⁴ But they didn’t understand any of this. The significance of His words was hidden from them, and they failed to grasp what He was talking about.

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Luke 18:35-43 NLT As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind beggar was sitting beside the road. ³⁶ When he heard the noise of a crowd going past, he asked what was happening. ³⁷ They told him that Jesus the Nazarene was going by. ³⁸ So he began shouting, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ³⁹ “Be quiet!” the people in front yelled at him. But he only shouted louder, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁰ When Jesus heard him, he stopped and ordered that the man be brought to Him. As the man came near, Jesus asked him, ⁴¹ “What do you want me to do for you?” “Lord,” he said, “I want to see!” ⁴² And Jesus said, “All right, receive your sight! Your faith has healed you.” ⁴³ Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus, praising God. And all who saw it praised God, too.

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Have we asked God to give us what we need?

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Children <u>Innocence</u> to God		Adults <u>Control</u> the situation.
	Comparison	
Rich young ruler Has everything who really has nothing		Jesus. Has everything but gives it all up.
	Comparison	
Crowd Wanted to keep <u>appearances</u>		Blind beggar Was <u>determined</u> to get to Jesus

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