

Doubtless Living!

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THE GOSPEL OF

LUKE

That you may have certainty!

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**“I AM THE
GREATEST”**


“I said that even before I knew I was.”

Muhammad Ali
MUHAMMAD ALI

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PRAYING WITH HUMILITY

Luke 18:9-14

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THE HUMBLE SINNER

Luke 18:9-14

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and looked down on everyone else: ¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee was standing and praying like this about himself: 'God, I thank you that I'm not like other people—greedy, unrighteous, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of everything I get.'

¹³ "But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even raise his eyes to heaven but kept striking his chest and saying, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this one went down to his house justified rather than the other; because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

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THE HUMBLE SINNER

Luke 18:9-14

⁹ He also told this parable **to some who trusted in themselves** that they were righteous and looked down on everyone else:

To whom did Jesus tell this parable?

What was it about them that prompted Jesus to tell this parable?

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THE HUMBLE SINNER

Luke 18:9-14

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

Who were the two men described in the story?

What reputation did Pharisees and tax collectors have in Bible times?

Who would be examples of "Pharisees" and "tax collectors" in our society today?

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THE HUMBLE SINNER

Luke 18:9-14

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¹¹ The Pharisee was **standing and praying like this about himself**: 'God, I thank you that I'm not like other people—greedy, unrighteous, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of everything I get.'

What motivated the Pharisee to pray?

Why was the Pharisee confident in his own righteousness?

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Luke 18:9-14

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¹³ "But the tax collector, **standing far off, would not even raise his eyes to heaven** but kept striking his chest and saying, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner!'

Why did the tax collector stand at a distance?

What does his posture reveal about his own attitude?

What prompted the tax collector to pray?

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THE HUMBLE SINNER

Luke 18:9-14

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

What difference did it make how these men prayed?

What does it mean that one man was justified and the other wasn't?

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THE HUMBLE SINNER

Luke 18:9-14

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

What other Bible verse comes to mind when you read this warning from Jesus?

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THE HUMBLE SINNER

Luke 18:9-14

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PROVERBIAL WARNINGS

- **Proverbs 11:2** - "When arrogance comes, disgrace follows, but with humility comes wisdom."
- **Proverbs 29:23** - "A person's pride will humble him, but a humble spirit will gain honor."
- **Proverbs 18:12** - "Before his downfall a person's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor."
- **Proverbs 16:18** - "Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall."

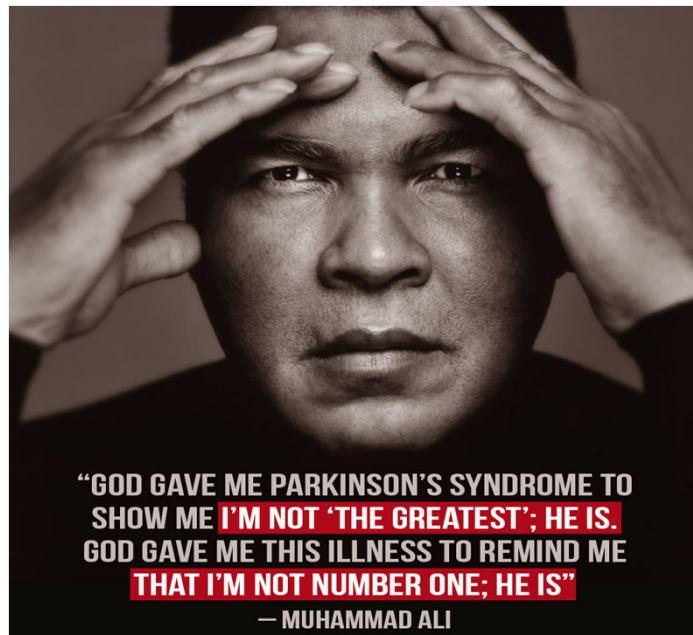
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In His Own Words

Sadly, I have seen no evidence to suggest that he recognized Jesus Christ as the One and only Way to have peace with God before he died.

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THE HUMBLE SINNER

Luke 18:9-14

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Philippians 2:9-11

"For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that **at the name of Jesus every knee will bow — in heaven and on earth and under the earth — and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father."

All may not be humbled on earth, like Muhammed Ali, but all will be humbled in the end.

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THE HUMBLE SINNER

Luke 18:9-14

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

What principle did Jesus stress with this parable?

In whose righteousness should we have confidence?

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THE HUMBLE SINNER

Luke 18:9-14

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Philippians 2:5-8

“Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, **he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death — even to death on a cross.**”

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DELIBERATE DISCIPLESHIP

- God commands us to be bold and courageous with our prayers and in our service, but He also warns us about the dangers of becoming proud and arrogant.
- The humble do not engage in comparison and are aware that their standing before God is possible only because of His mercy.
- Humility before God and confidence in His mercy—not on our own merit—brings acceptance from God.
- **What specific steps can you take this week to cultivate a spirit of humility?**

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