

52 – Luke 18:9-17 – Humble faith in Jesus

...many Australian people sincerely believe that “when we die we all go to heaven”

How do you get to heaven?

A connected parable

Firstly, a joining word “also”.

Secondly ... both speaking about prayer and faith.

... examples of real faith

Thirdly ... who is going to be in the kingdom of God.

The parable says

... because some were confident in their own righteousness.

The pharisee

Talmud, “I give thanks to Thee, O Lord my God, that Thou hast set my portion with those who sit in the Beth ha-Midrash (House of learning) and Thou hast not set my portion with those who sit in (street) corners, for I rise early and they rise early, but I rise early for words of Torah and they rise early for frivolous talk; I labour and they labour, but I labour and receive a reward and they labour and do not receive a reward; I run and they run, but I run to the life of the future world and they run to the pit of destruction.

... consumed with what he has done.

... well above the expected

...pharisee of the parable expects to be going to heaven because of all the legalism he maintains and the works of the law he does.

The tax collector

... he knew he desperately needed God’s mercy.

... it is ONLY the despised sinful tax collector who goes home justified

an example for what faith in Jesus for your salvation looks like

Romans 3:20, the law makes us conscious of our sin

Luke 18:14

...have faith in the mercy of God for our salvation NOT in the work of the law.

Romans 3:21-26

“Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. ²¹ But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness is

given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished - ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Kingdom entry

v 15 ... people were bringing little babies to Jesus for him to bless them.

Jesus does not say you need to come to Jesus and enter the kingdom AS a child but LIKE a child.

Nor are babies pure and innocent

BUT ... because a baby is 100% dependent on others.

“Will I find faith on this earth?”

We need to have a 100% trust in Jesus’ mercy and grace for our salvation which is the same as our entry into the kingdom of God.

For us today

1) Salvation dependent on God’s mercy not on any works of the law

On what basis do you believe you are going to be going to heaven when you die

“I will be going to heaven when I die because I have done ...”

... like the pharisee with no hope of eternity.

“I am going to heaven when I die because Jesus has died ...”

... like the tax collector you have thrown yourself on the mercy of God and the salvation Jesus has won.