

TRAITS OF THE PHARISEE

Luke 18:9 *And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10. Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. 13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. 15 And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them. 16 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. 17 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.*

Read the above scripture and see if you can see what I see, the traits of the pharisee. Who were the Pharisees? The Pharisees were the set apart ones within the Jewish community at the time, they had nothing to do with common people as they believed they had bad morals due to them not following the law to the letter and yet they had bad morals spiritually and in their thinking, they were a grade above the rest! Not only were the Pharisees rapt in the law of Moses but also the “Jewish Laws” which were basic traditions of the Jews, these are the basics lets take a look at the above verses.

1. They trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others: **2.** They prayed by themselves being self righteous and stating they were not like others (sinners). **3.** They brag about their fasting and tithing, **4.** They exalt themselves and NOT Jesus, **5.** When people try getting close they are rebuked by the pharisee especially ‘children’ in the faith. So what is the problem here, Jesus said let the little children come unto me, if we are to be “Christ” ians we need to be like Jesus allowing the little ones in the faith to approach us “for the kingdom of God belongs to them”.

Traits of the Pharisee continued...

All through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John we see Jesus rebuking the Pharisee, the religious rulers who place burdens on people and don’t lift a finger to help them when they need it (**Matthew 23v24**). I have known a few people like this over my 23 years as a Christian and then again I have known thousands more who are not like this. We need to keep watch over our lives and how we treat others and our walk with God that we don’t allow pride to creep in and we don’t become religious in our thinking and ways, so what does religious mean, it means bondage, we need to be like the publican in these verses.

“The publican cried out “Oh God be merciful to me a sinner”. Why did he do this? Was he saying woe unto me I am nothing but a scumbag? A Beggar? I am not good enough to be a Christian? No! He was repeating what Jesus had said in **Matthew 5v1-11** Blessed are they that know they need God and seek after God. I have heard many different versions of the Prosperity message, of preachers repeatedly spending 20 to 30 minutes on speaking on tithes and offerings, saying look how blessed I am, but little do the people know that those new cars are leased and not owned, the house is financed and the church pays for it, the Pastor is on a nice wage, one we would love to receive as much as half ourselves, and at the same time they do little to help a person struggling in their very own congregation.

Right now people are thinking Roscoe you are being judgemental, no I am not; I am stating facts! Wake up church, the church is not the building, quite often I hear my Pastor say this, “the church has nothing to do with buildings the church is the people” and it brings a tear to my eye, because not many people realise this, they think about the building when you mention church. Jesus said “they will know you by your fruits”, what fruits? The love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, meekness the fruits of the Spirit. Jesus also said by our love for one another they will know you are my disciples (**John 13:35**), what does he mean by Love? It does not matter what dictionary or commentary you look into for this verse, LOVE is the attitude and working out of yourself to help another, to be a blessing to another, to go out of your way for another, and it is all summed up in the verse **John 3:16** For god so LOVED the world that **he gave** his only Son Jesus... What do the pharisees do?

The traits of a pharisee is someone who always knocks others, puts others down, looks down upon someone who is struggling and disregards to help them, has nothing to do with new Christians in case they “steal their anointing”, (actually we should be the influence on the New Christians). Some of the best times of

fellowship I have had, has been one on one with a hungry for God young believer just asking questions. The Pharisee doesn't have Love in his or her life and therefore they don't have Faith either because Faith works by Love **Galatians 5:6** so lets look at **James 2v20** faith without works is dead, so works and Love are they same thing really or can be applied as the same anyway in this context.

Don't be like the pharisee, if you see a need and you can help out, do so and God will also bless you back "Pressed down shaken together and flowing over", Yes God does want to prosper us financially, and spiritually but he wants us to walk in Love first toward our neighbour. If we are faithful with little he will place us in charge of much, 'much' not millions! **God Bless and stay upright - Roscoe**