

# The Superficial Thanksgiving

Luke 18:9-14

November 18, 2007 (CSBC)

## Intro:

- I. Thanksgiving is a great day!
  - a. "A good thing to give thanks." (Ps. 92:1)
  - b. "Thanksgiving has great curative powers." A. W. Tozer
  - c. Getting together with family and friends can heal many things
- II. For many this week will be superficial.
  - a. For some a time of praise; for others perplex
  - b. For some a spiritual time; for others a superficial time.
- III. Let's look today at the Pharisee and his superficial thanksgiving.

## \*READ TEXT\*

### I. The Pharisee Was Unaware of His Greatest Need (vv.11-12)

- A. "I thank Thee that I am not like these other men."
- B. Started with thanksgiving...but the wrong kind
  - a. H.A. Ironside: "This man was not thanking God for what grace had done for him; he was thanking God for what he himself had done, and that is the wrong attitude."
  - b. D.L. Moody: "It was a very prayerless prayer. He said a prayer but he didn't pray any."
- C. He focused on human efforts: do's and don'ts
- D. He needed personal salvation through faith in Jesus
  - a. Something he couldn't earn by his good works
  - b. He could only receive it as a free gift.

### II. The Pharisee Was Unconcerned About the Publican (v.11)

- A. "Or even this publican"
- B. The difference filled him with pride rather than compassion
- C. True thanksgiving produces thankful living
  - a. Thankful for salvation? Tell others of Christ.
  - b. Thankful for provisions? Share it with others.
  - c. Thankful for kindness? Pass on kindness to others.
  - d. Thankful for Christian fellowship? Extend fellowship.
  - e. Thankful for prayers? Pray for others.
- D. This is the spirit of the first Thanksgiving
  - a. They shared with one another
  - b. They were truly thankful

### III. The Pharisee Was Unchanged When He Returned (v.14)

- A. True thanksgiving changes us
- B. He went to a good place: the temple
- C. He went for a good purpose: to pray
- D. He went home unchanged
- E. Millions leave churches unchanged
- F. Don't let this happen to you today

## Conc:

- A. The other person in this parable (vv.13-14)
  - a. This man faced his sins and sought forgiveness
  - b. Nothing superficial about his response
  - c. "God be merciful to me a sinner."
- B. The publican went home a new man
  - a. He went home forgiven: justified (v.14)
  - b. Now he could be truly thankful
  - c. How about you?