

# Unworthy Servants of Christ

*Promise: the Lord delights to exalt the humble who look to His Mercy*  
Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg  
Proverbs 25:2-10; Psalm 131; Hebrews 13:1-17; [Luke 14:1-14](#)  
(12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, 8/28/22)

*For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. – v. 11*

**Lead In** – I have often kidded that I am nearing completion on authoring a book, a lifetime effort, indeed a masterpiece. The name of the book is “True Humility” and it is subtitled, “The Ten Steps to True Humility and How I Alone Achieved It.” Some humility, huh? But where I want to start this morning is with the question: Who are the Pharisees then and now?

## I. In the House of a Ruler of the Pharisees

- A. The Pharisees back then... High regard for the Law!
- B. Two problems with they way they regarded it...
- C. Jesus does not shy away from confronting them...

## II. In Proper Regards to God’s Law

- A. Threefold purpose: cub, mirror, and guide...
- B. You can fall off a horse on both sides, right and left...
- C. In this lesson Jesus goes after legalism...

## III. Who Are the Pharisees Today?

- A. Its not always the ones accused of being so...
- B. Here’s a sign: Where is the blame for evil assigned...
- C. With shared blame: Lord be merciful to me a sinner...

**Parting Shot** – Jesus promises to exalt those who humble themselves. The exaltation He is promising does not belong to this age. It is to be raised bodily in the resurrection on the Last Day and then in the Kingdom being given a place at the Table at the Wedding Feast of the Lamb. Would you be willing to yield the head of the table in this age for being seated anywhere at that Table? Then humble yourself and say...

*Pharisaioi* – properly, “a separatist, a purist”; a Pharisee.” Member of a Jewish religious sect.

**Beliefs of the Pharisee Party:** 1) that people had the ability to do good or evil; 2) that by keeping God’s law we earn His favor; 3) that their traditions and rituals were surefire ways to keep God’s law; 4) that it was important to avoid contact with the impure and lawless, which was pretty much everyone who did not belong to their party.

**Two Big Problems:** 1) pride by way of comparison; 2) and a lack of mercy.

**Lk 18:9-14** He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the

# Luke 14:1-14 ESV

*The Parable of the Wedding Feast*

One Sabbath, when he went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. <sup>2</sup> And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. <sup>3</sup> And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?” <sup>4</sup> But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. <sup>5</sup> And he said to them, “Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?” <sup>6</sup> And they could not reply to these things.

<sup>7</sup> Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, <sup>8</sup> “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, <sup>9</sup> and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. <sup>11</sup> For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

<sup>12</sup> He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup> and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

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**Mt 23:1-36** *Seven pronouncements of woes by Jesus upon the Pharisees...*

*antinomian vs legalism*

**Mt 5:17-19** “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

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## Psalm 131

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, I **am** not proud;\*  
I have no **haughty** looks.

<sup>2</sup>I do not occupy myself  
**with** great matters,\*  
or with things  
that are too **hard** for me.

<sup>3</sup>But I still my soul and make it quiet,  
like a child upon its **mother's** breast;\*  
my soul is **quieted** within me.

<sup>4</sup>O Israel, wait **upon** the LORD,\*  
from this time forth **forevermore**.

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