



Attitudes of Excellence

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Lesson Eight: Destroying the little Pharisee in us

It is commonly known as the Asterisk (\*) Complex.

In 1927 **Babe Ruth** hit an amazing 60 homeruns in one

season. That became the record and standard for over three decades. In 1961, 34 years later, **Roger Maris** hit 61 homeruns that season. However, the season was longer and Maris played in more games than Ruth did in 1927. As a result, in the history books, there was always an Asterisk by Maris' name. He hit more homeruns in a season, but he played in more games.



The Asterisk (\*) Complex has a way of sneaking into our conversations, fellowship and lives. It's the way we see others and treat others. It's all about attitude!

## The common Characteristics of the Asterisk (\*) Complex (the spirit of a Pharisee)

1. Quick to bring to the surface the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of others—even years later
2. Tendency to see the \_\_\_\_\_ side of things
3. Looking at \_\_\_\_\_ more than looking at self
4. Little \_\_\_\_\_ towards others
5. Desire to want to \_\_\_\_\_ away those who are \_\_\_\_\_
6. Ready to \_\_\_\_\_ the book at someone who messed up
7. Always having the spiritual radar gun of \_\_\_\_\_ in hand
8. At every funeral, it has been \_\_\_\_\_ whether the person is saved or lost
9. Faith built upon \_\_\_\_\_ not grace
10. Thrives on dispensing \_\_\_\_\_ to others

## The Mistakes of the Prodigal's Older Brother

Luke 15:25-32

1. He was \_\_\_\_\_ when he should have \_\_\_\_\_ (28)
2. He found reason to \_\_\_\_\_ when he should have felt \_\_\_\_\_ (29)
3. He \_\_\_\_\_ the relationship with his brother when he should have been \_\_\_\_\_ (30a)
4. He was \_\_\_\_\_ towards his father, when he should have been \_\_\_\_\_ (30)
5. He missed the grand celebration when he should have \_\_\_\_\_ in it (28)

What do we know about "Pharisees?"

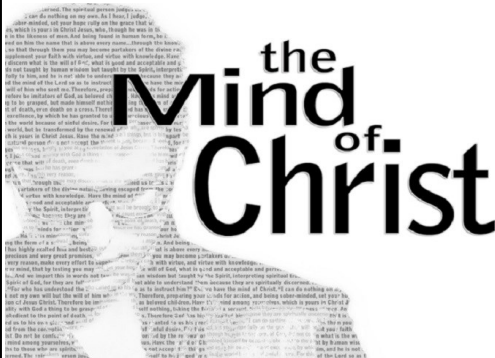
## The Blindness of the Praying Pharisee

Luke 18:9-14

1. He had the wrong view of \_\_\_\_\_ and the wrong view of \_\_\_\_\_
2. He saw nothing wrong in \_\_\_\_\_
3. He saw nothing \_\_\_\_\_ in the publican
4. He was not truly \_\_\_\_\_
5. He didn't have much of a \_\_\_\_\_ for God

Why is the Pharisee spirit so common in the churches of Christ?

What ramifications does this spirit have?



- "How has it happened that the people who proclaim forgiveness of sin don't seem to have any sins to be forgiven of themselves? How has a church that once was the happy possession of common fishermen, prostitutes, and tax collectors now become the home of the spiritual elite? We no longer need salvation. The unbeliever receives the forgiveness of sin but the believer must have simply stop sinning. ..It is thought that salvation is for those who need to be saved, not those who are already saved" (John Fischer, "12 Steps for the Recovering Pharisee—like Me).

How do we destroy the little Pharisee in us?

1. Salvation is an \_\_\_\_\_ that we each need all the time (1 Pet 1:5, 9; 2:2)

- Many of these Bible heroes were great sinners after their spiritual victories  
Noah was drunk after the flood; David committed adultery after killing the giant
- We need the Lord every day
- "If Bible tells the whole story, then we need to tell the whole story, too, about our lives. We tell the whole story about our successes and failures for the same reason these lessons are in Scriptures. We tell the whole story so that it becomes very clear to anyone who might care to notice that we are not the heroes of the message we bring. We are participants in the story of which Jesus Christ is the beginning, the middle and the end." (Fischer)
- We get it right sometimes and we get it wrong sometimes. When we get it right, it is because we are depending on God's strength and presence in our lives, not on anything in and of ourselves. When we get it wrong, it is because we are looking to ourselves and not to God.



2. We become \_\_\_\_\_ for all who are on this journey with us

3. We become \_\_\_\_\_ about ourselves

- Jn 8:7 He who is without sin...
- 1 Jn 1:8 If we say we have no sin...

4. We put ourselves \_\_\_\_\_ of the picture and \_\_\_\_\_ upon the Lord

- We realize that salvation is a gift (Eph 2:8; 2 Cor 9:15)
- Expressions pour out of hymns describing salvation as marvelous, wonderful, matchless, amazing and precious

5. We switch our mindset from pointing people to \_\_\_\_\_ to sharing \_\_\_\_\_ with them

6. We **flip** the "10 Common Characteristics of the Asterisk (\*) Complex around:

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