



## SERMON NOTES

# Life's Two Pockets

Midweek Sermon

Pastor Carl Toti

May 20, 2020

*Luke 18:9-14 (NLT)*

*9 Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: 10 "Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else. For I don't cheat, I don't sin, and I don't commit adultery. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! 12 I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.' 13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.' 14 I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."*

"I have never agreed with my other self wholly. The truth of the matter seems to lie between us."  
— Khalil Gibran

"Together, we form a necessary paradox; not a senseless contradiction."  
— Criss Jami, songwriter

*Proverbs 23:7a (NKJV)*

*"For as he thinks in his heart, so is he..."*

### 1. THE CONTRADICTION OF THESE TWO \_\_\_\_\_

The Pharisee (which means 'separated one'), was a pillar of the community/church, a passionate patriot, and a respectable citizen.

The cheating tax collector, on the other hand, was a social leper and an untouchable.

### 2. THE CONTRADICTION OF THEIR \_\_\_\_\_

46 words in the Pharisees prayer.

11 words in the tax collectors prayer.

"O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner."

### 3. THE CONTRADICTION OF THEIR \_\_\_\_\_

The net gain for the Pharisee was zero! But then again, he didn't ask for anything. His prayer did more harm - it hurt him more than it helped him.

The prayer of the tax collector resulted in his "justification." This is a fancy word which means 'God had received you' and by doing so, has credited to your heavenly account His righteousness.

ANSWERS:

1. MEN

2. PRAYERS

3. FAITH