

September 30, 2025

Yom Kippur Message

Going Away Justified

Introduction

What makes the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector a Yom Kippur story? It has justification

Luke 18:9-14

The Two Men who went up to Pray

Luke 18:9

- Yeshua told this parable to a group of people who were trusting in themselves for Savation while they were despising other people who weren't like them. It sounds like He was addressing Pharisees here. (2 Corinthians 10:12).
- It says that Yehovah will oppose the proud but will give grace to the humble. (James 4:6).

- Trusting in yourself for salvation goes directly against Scripture. (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Luke 18:10

- The two men that went to the Temple was one that was a Pharisee and the other a Tax Collector.
- The Pharisee represented following the Torah and adding to the Torah through the Talmud.
- The tax collector represents Torahlessness and coming back to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Luke 18:11

- The Pharisee was praying an ancient form of the Amidah later it had other blessings added after the destruction of the Temple. Thank you Lord for not making me a Gentile or Thank you Lord for not letting me be a woman (For men only).
- This Pharisee was saying Thank you for not making me like a thief, unjust, adulterers or even like this tax collector.
- Tax Collectors were the most hated Jew of the 1st Century. They left the Torah behind and their own families behind because they were contractors for Rome. Some of them took on Roman identities.

Luke 18:12

- The Pharisees Fast twice a week and tithed on all that they got.
- He was still trying to show Yehovah all that He does in the flesh and not necessarily in the

Spirit. You can fast and tithe all you want but if you don't have a personal relationship with Yeshua all that is in vain.

- Fasting because of tradition is meaningless however fasting because of the Ruach HaKodesh is leading you to do that is power! (Isaiah 58).

Luke 18:13

- The tax collector was standing at a distance from the Pharisee probably in the Court of the Gentiles because he was not walking in the the commandments of Yehovah.
- He was so ashamed of His sin that he couldn't even look up into the heavens to Yehovah.
- He beat His chest saying Elohim be merciful a sinner. This is a Yom Kippur prayer to be merciful for our sin at the same time beating our breasts. (Ezra 9:6).

Luke 18:14

- Yeshua said this man went away declared righteous or you can say the word justified here.
- Yeshua said everyone who exalts himself will be humbled but the one who humbles himself will be exalted. (Galatians 2:16; Romans 5:1-2; 2 Cor. 5:21; Titus 3:5-7).
- The tax collector was restored to Elohim by His humbling himself and praying to the Father for forgiveness. (1 Peter 5:6-7; James 4:10; Matthew 23:12; Romans 12:16; James 4:7).

Take Aways

1. The Pharisees in this context represented pride however not all Pharisees were suffering from Pride.
2. The Tax Collector here represented someone who was truly contrite of His sins.
3. If we humble ourselves like the Tax Collector did we will truly be lifted up!

Application

1. I will strive to not be like the Pharisees that are prideful!
2. I will ask forgiveness humbly from my heart.
3. If I humble myself in the sight of Yehovah according to Scripture I will be lifted up.

Beth Ohr Messianic Congregation

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