

# THE GREATEST STORIES EVER TOLD: THE PARABLES OF JESUS

Great Stories about Prayer  
Sunday, November 7 | Tommy Duke  
First Baptist Church of Garden City  
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## The Parable of the Pharisee & the Tax Collector Luke 18:9-14 (NLT)

<sup>9</sup> Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: <sup>10</sup> 'Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector.

<sup>11</sup> 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!" <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income."

<sup>13</sup> 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."

<sup>14</sup> 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.'"

### The Actors:

### The Actions:

#### HOW TO HAVE A POWERFUL PRAYER LIFE

##### 1. EVERY \_\_\_\_\_ MAKE TIME TO \_\_\_\_\_.

"Never stop praying." – 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NLT)

"But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."  
– Matthew 6:6 (NKJV)

##### 2. DON'T GET THE \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Memory Verse:

"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."  
– Luke 18:14 (NLT)

**3. TAKE OFF \_\_\_\_\_ BEFORE I PRAY.**

*“When you pray, don’t babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again.” – Matthew 6:7 (NKJV)*

**4. REMEMBER, IT’S NOT JUST \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.” – Philippians 4:6 (NLT)*

**4 Types of Prayer:**

- P \_\_\_\_\_
- P \_\_\_\_\_
- P \_\_\_\_\_
- P \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**5. NEVER, NEVER, NEVER STOP ASKING.**

**The Parable of the Friend Who Asks – Luke 11:5-13 (NLT)**

*(Jesus) “And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.” – Luke 11:9-10 (NLT)*

**6. GOD IS BIG, SO PRAY BIG.**

*“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” – Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)*

*“But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!” – John 15:7 (NLT)*

**MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS TO:**

- Memorize Luke 18:14.
- Set aside a specific time and place to pray every day this week.
- Be persistent in praying for a specific request: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Commit to pray each day for God’s will to be done in this church.

Join us again next weekend as we continue *The Greatest Stories Ever Told* with  
*“Great Stories about Money & Possessions.”*

Invite a friend to join you!

*\* Bible verses are from the New King James Versions (NKJV)  
or the New Living Translation (NLT) unless otherwise noted.*