

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

Religious moralism and relativism is ingrained in men by nature, showing the work of the law written in their hearts. The LORD JESUS spent much of HIS ministry exposing and combating these very notions which were epitomized by the leaders among the Jews. The Pharisee’s and the Sadducees were poster children for the perception that some men are greater sinners than others and that some men are more deserving of destruction than others.

Few people are free from this concept in some measure. It is a most common trait to look upon the transgressions of others with disdain while justifying ourselves by a comparison of what we consider are our own lesser faults. Very few would not admit that they do have faults. Yet all are able to find some who they consider are worse than themselves. This is just indicative of the actual depravity of all men rather than the proof that some are less so than others. *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”*

Now there are many who will quote this scripture with a twinkle in their eye who will turn right around and grade other’s actions compared to their own and thank GOD that they are not as bad as them. We see this mindset epitomized in the sincere prayer of the Pharisee *“The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.”* He took notice of this wicked tax collector and had regard unto his own morality compared to him, even thanking GOD for his comparative righteousness. He also mentioned his own performance of acts of devotion, as he sought to establish his own righteousness before the LORD.

All of the righteousness of men of whatever type it may be is but dung before the LORD who likened the *“the righteousnesses”* of Israel to *“filthy rags”*. If the very best that men perform is illustrated by filthy rags how must their transgressions appear. All men, without exception, are worthy of death and destruction. It is a wonder of wonders that the LORD has chosen to save any from among them. But such is the good news of the “gospel” that HE *“came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”* The man who has regard to his own supposed “righteousness” is devoid of true repentance and has no grounds upon which he might consider that HE has been “called by the LORD”.

In the account of Zaccheus is a perfect illustration of the LORD’s dealing with and calling of HIS children. This tree, which Zaccheus climbed, was not a random tree. Rather this was a particular tree which was in the exact spot where it needed to be. Perhaps the LORD had caused this tree to be planted before Zaccheus was ever born. It began to grow according to the LORD’s direction until it reached the exact size that it needed to be, for a man who *“was little of stature.”* Zaccheus had no intention of climbing this tree when he left home that morning. When he heard that this man JESUS of Nazareth was passing by this way, he probably figured he would stand with the crowd in a leisurely manner and see what all of the hubbub was about. Yet the crowd began to press upon him and he was forced to seek another vantage point where he might observe the goings on. Lo and behold a sycamore tree was in just the right spot and the branches were spaced just right for him to climb up and (as he thought) observe the parade unobstructed and unnoticed.

Imagine his surprise when all of a sudden the procession stopped and he found himself face to face with the KING of SALVATION who had stopped at this exact spot and looked up into the tree where he was perched. Imagine his further surprise, when this ONE, whom he had never met, called him by name and invited HIMSELF over to Zaccheus’ house. The LORD called him by name because HE knew him from before the foundation of the world and just as HE said, *“he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.”* HE made no request of Zaccheus but rather commanded Zaccheus to come down for HE was going to abide in his house this very day. Zaccheus made haste and came down immediately for the LORD said, *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”* Thus the LORD came to a sinners house. The publicans and harlots go into the Kingdom, but the righteous among men shall perish.

“Thy free grace alone,” #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthepeer@windstream.net**