

(Luke 18:9-14, NIV84)

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men-robbers, evildoers, adulterers-or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

July 8

Afraid There Is No Forgiveness for You?

Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. John 6:37

A distressed mother came to her pastor with the excited confession: "Pastor, I have committed the unpardonable sin!" The kind and wise clergyman gave no sign of surprise or alarm, but simply asked her: "And are you sorry for it?"

"Yes, Pastor, dreadfully sorry!" was her anguished reply. "Then you have committed nothing that cannot be forgiven. No sin, no matter how great, cannot be completely pardoned through sincere repentance and trusting faith in Jesus, our Redeemer."

That is the supreme glory and comfort of the Christian Gospel! The disease cannot spread farther than the cure. "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." There was sufficient grace for Peter, who "went out and wept bitterly"; for Paul, who cried out: "Oh, wretched man that I am"; and for the penitent publican, who smote upon his breast and said: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

And there is sufficient grace for us! That is what the Bible means when it assures us: "If any man sin, we have an advocate [one who speaks for us] with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous: and he is the propitiation [the payment] for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

Believers in the sin-atoning Savior need never be afraid that a particular sin is beyond forgiveness. All who have learned to look with pleading faith toward Calvary's cross for their assurance of forgiveness have experienced the blessed truth of the Savior's pledge: "Him that cometh to me I will in

no wise cast out."

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down, Thy head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, Weary and worn and sad;
I found in Him a resting place, And He has made me glad!

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman
W. Gockel)