

# Luke 18:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

## Analysis

**I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other**—Jesus delivers the shocking verdict. *Dedikaiōmenos* (δεδικαιωμένος) means 'declared righteous,' the same justification language Paul uses (Romans 3-5). The tax collector, not the Pharisee, received God's favorable verdict. *Par' ekeinon* (παρ' ἐκεῖνον)—'rather than the other'—makes the contrast absolute.

**For every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted**—the principle of divine reversal. *Ho hypsōn heauton tapeinōthēsetai* (ὁ ὑψῶν ἐαυτὸν ταπεινωθήσεται)—self-exaltation leads to humbling. *Ho tapeinōn heauton hypsōthēsetai* (ὁ ταπεινῶν ἐαυτὸν ὑψωθήσεται)—self-humbling leads to exaltation. God's kingdom reverses worldly values: the first shall be last (Matthew 20:16), the humble are exalted (James 4:10).

## Historical Context

First-century Judaism debated righteousness: Was it achieved through Torah observance or received as God's gift? Jesus settles the question: justification comes through humble repentance, not self-righteous performance. This teaching anticipated Paul's doctrine of justification by faith alone (Ephesians 2:8-9). The Pharisee trusted his works; the tax collector cast himself on God's mercy. Only the latter went home justified—declared righteous before God.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. What does the tax collector's justification reveal about God's basis for declaring someone righteous?
2. How does Jesus's principle of reversal (humble exalted, proud abased) challenge worldly definitions of success?
3. In what areas might you be trusting your religious performance rather than God's mercy for acceptance?

## Interlinear Text

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λέγω ὑμῖν κατέβη οὗτος δεδικαιωμένος εἰς τὸν οἶκον  
I tell you went down this man justified to G3588 house  
G3004 G5213 G2597 G3778 G1344 G1519 G3624

αὐτοῦ ἢ ἐκεῖνος· ὅτι πᾶς ὁ ὑψωθήσεται  
G846 rather than the other for every one G3588 shall be exalted  
G2228 G1565 G3754 G3956 G5312

ἐαυτὸν ταπεινῶν ὁ δὲ ταπεινῶν ἐαυτὸν  
himself he that humbleth G3588 and he that humbleth himself  
G1438 G5013 G1161 G5013 G1438

ὑψωθήσεται  
shall be exalted  
G5312

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 14:11** (Parallel theme): For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

**Luke 16:15** (Righteousness): And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

**James 4:10** (Parallel theme): Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

**Proverbs 29:23** (Parallel theme): A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

**Matthew 23:12** (Parallel theme): And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

**James 4:6** (Parallel theme): But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

**Psalms 138:6** (Parallel theme): Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.

**Luke 1:52** (Parallel theme): He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

**Isaiah 57:15** (Parallel theme): For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

**Matthew 5:3** (Parallel theme): Blessed are the poor in spirit: for their's is the kingdom of heaven.