



Hitting the bottom is indescribable. Our world is too full of the stories of those who suffer as their lives spin out of control toward the bottom, never quite finding the hope that they long for.

A story about two men coming to the Temple platform to pray. As Jesus typically did, He drew a contrast by describing two extreme opposites to illustrate His teaching – a very religious man contrasted to a very sinful man.

**B.L.U.F.** (Bottom Line Up Front): *Reaching the bottom is the long 1<sup>st</sup> step to acquiring what I've been longing for.*

## 1. Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ v. 9

Man's greatest question is this – "How can a man be justified?" This question was asked Job 9:2; 25:4.

- Religion gives a person a path to holy living that earns a place in God's Kingdom.
- Jesus gives a path down to the bottom of a person's goodness where a helpless person can cry out for mercy.

## 2. Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ v. 10-13

v. 10 – two very different men at the Temple praying.

1) \_\_\_\_\_ Pharisee v. 11-12

2) \_\_\_\_\_ Publican v. 13

## 3. Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ v. 14

Jesus conclusion is shocking to the religious.

- A religious leader NOT JUSTIFIED?!
- A despicable publican IS JUSTIFIED?!

Matthew 21:31-32



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*Broken over sin...I'm at the bottom!*