

Making Room for Mercy

Luke 18:9–14

Sunday, April 6, 2025

Big Idea: The **kingdom** of God is not for those who think they **deserve** it, but for those who know they don't.

1. We Must Remove **Religiosity**

Luke 18:9–12

“To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone 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 by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’”

2. We Must **Recognize Humility**

Luke 18:13

“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.’”

3. We Must **Reflect Hospitality**

Luke 18:14

“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”