

“Parables: The Pharisee & the Tax Collector”

Text: Luke 18:9-14

“Jesus told this story to some people who thought they were very good and looked down on everyone else: ¹⁰ “A Pharisee and a tax collector both went to the Temple to pray. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood alone and prayed, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people who steal, cheat, or take part in adultery, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week, and I give 1/10 of everything I get!’

¹³ “The tax collector, standing at a distance, would not even look up to heaven. But he beat on his chest because he was so sad. He said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ ¹⁴ I tell you, when this man went home, he was right with God, but the Pharisee was not. All who make themselves great will be made humble, but all who make themselves humble will be made great.”

1. What is arrogance? Someone who is full of self-worth or self-importance and who tells and shows that they have a feeling of _____ over others.
2. What is humility? A _____ or low view of one's own importance.

Proverbs 16:18 states: “Pride leads to destruction; a proud attitude brings ruin.”

Excerpt from parable: “God, I thank you that I am not like other people who steal, cheat, or take part in adultery, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week, and I give 1/10 of everything I get!”

3. Humility can keep us ‘_____,’ focused on the ‘main’ things, guide our thoughts and behaviors in helpful and healthy ways, and help us to become more like Christ.

Philippians 2:3-8 states: “When you do things, do not let selfishness or pride be your guide. Instead, be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves. ⁴ Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. ⁵ In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus. ⁶ Christ himself was like God in everything. But he did not think that being equal with God was something to be used for his own benefit. ⁷ But he gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born as a man and became like a

servant. ⁸ And when he was living as a man, he humbled himself and was fully obedient to God, even when that caused his death—death on a cross.”

Listen to this portion of Philippians 2:6-8 again: “⁶ Christ himself was like God in everything. But he did not think that being equal with God was something to be used for his own benefit. ⁷ But he gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born as a man and became like a servant. ⁸ And when he was living as a man, he humbled himself and was fully obedient to God, even when that caused his death—death on a cross.”

4. This parable contains the very essence of the gospel of Jesus. As verse 9 tells us, Jesus spoke this parable to “some people who thought they were very good and _____ on everyone else”.
5. Jesus spoke often of the issue of righteousness, pleading with His hearers to understand their utter _____ to be righteous enough to attain the kingdom of heaven.
6. The Pharisee in the story is the epitome of one who is self-_____.
7. Unlike the Pharisee, who stands boldly in the temple reciting his prayers of self-congratulation, the tax collector stood “afar off” or “at a _____,” perhaps in an outer room, but certainly far from the Pharisee who would have been offended by the nearness of this man.
8. This man’s posture spoke of his _____ before God.

“The tax collector, standing at a distance, would not even look up to heaven. But he beat on his chest because he was so sad.”

Matthew 5:3 - “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

9. Being poor in spirit means admitting we have _____ to offer to God to atone for our sin.
10. Jesus tells us in verse 14 that the tax collector went away _____ (made righteous) because he had humbled himself before God, confessing that _____ amount of works could save him from his sin and that only God’s mercy could.

11. Jesus specifically warns us against this attitude at the beginning of the parable. When we try to justify ourselves by _____ ourselves to others, we naturally end up despising them.

12. Our standard for comparison is _____ Himself, and we all fall short of His glory (Romans 3:23).

Ephesians 2:10 - "...we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."