

Authenticity Matters

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Luke 18:9-14, NIV

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 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. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' 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.' 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."

**Sometimes we start off with the best of intentions,
but somewhere along the way our pride derails us.**

Prayer is the setting for the parable, but authenticity is its theme.

Authenticity is being "true to one's own personality, spirit, or character"

Amos 5:21, NLT

I hate all your show and pretense the hypocrisy of your religious festivals and solemn assemblies

1 Timothy 1:5, NLT

The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith

1 Peter 1:6, 7, NLT

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed

1 Peter 2:1, NLT

So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech.

1. Humility

Matthew 6:5, 6, NIV

And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Romans 12:3, NIV

Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought.

Don't make yourself out to be more lowly than you are to get attention.

Without humility, authenticity is impossible.

2. Honesty

The Pharisee's entire praise offering was filled with wrong assumptions.

Without honesty, authenticity is impossible.

3. Holiness

Matthew 6:1, NIV

Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

Without authenticity, holiness is impossible.