

SERMON-BASED STUDY: NOT AS RIGHT AS YOU THINK

Luke 18:9-14, ESV – ⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Notes:

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- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This week, we were reminded that we have been saved by Jesus so we can act like Jesus. What are some ways we should act like Jesus? Why are we supposed to act like Him?
- 2 Why did people flock to Jesus? If we are to act like Jesus, then people should be flocking to us, too. Would you say that people are flocking to us? Explain.

- 3 Describe in your own words the “better trap.” How do people fall into the “better trap”? How can people avoid falling into this trap?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **James 4:1-10, ESV** – *What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.*

- 4 Looking at the passage above, what causes quarrels and fights among people? How does this correlate with the “better trap”? Why does this put us at odds with God?

- 5 What does it mean to “submit to God” and “draw near to God”? What does this feel like?

- 6 Define “humility.” What are the results that it produces? Share a recent experience when you have been humble before another person.

B **1 Peter 4:8-11, ESV** – *⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

- 7 Peter’s chief command is to continue to love one another. Why can this be a challenge for believers? What does it look like for love to cover a “multitude of sins”?

8 According to this passage, why does God give us gifts? How does this serve as motivation for using our gifts?

9 How can focusing on loving others help us to be humble and not get caught in the “better trap”?

TAKING IT HOME

Submitting, drawing closer, and humbling ourselves before God makes us more like Jesus and less prideful and judgmental. Similarly, we are to humbly love and serve one another. What is one thing you will do this week to reduce pride and bring more humility into your life? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is showing you. Pray for one another as you strive to be people of humility and love.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

John 13:33-35

1 Corinthians 13:4-7