

Sermon Questions: Pharisee and Tax Collector

Luke 18:9-14

1. Can you remember a time when you felt a little bit self-righteous or prideful about some good or virtuous behavior or activity in your life? Please describe.
2. What are some of the benefits of certain spiritual activities such as prayer, reading the Bible, helping others and attending worship services? How can participating in these activities lead to spiritual arrogance if we aren't careful?
3. Pastor Mark suggests that in most areas of life, especially in relationships with God and others, our attitude determines our altitude. Share some destructive attitudes that hurt our relationships. Share some positive attitudes that help build relationships.
4. Read Luke 18:9-14. List some of the differences you notice between the Pharisee and the Tax Collector.
5. Why do you think it would have shocked listeners of Jesus' story when he told them that it was the Tax Collector who walked away from the Temple with a right relationship with God?
6. How does authentic humility help us experience an authentic relationship with the Lord?
7. How does our physical posture impact our prayer life? What posture do you usually use when you pray?
8. What is the warning in this story? What is the promise of this story?
9. Why is it important that our relationship with God be grounded in our confidence in His loving character rather than our confidence in our religious performance?
10. What are you doing consistently to remind yourself of God's grace?