

# THE PHARISEE & THE TAX COLLECTOR— A TALE OF TWO HEARTS

January 9, 2022 | Luke 18:9-14 | Pastor Lonnie Harris

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## I. Pride & Prejudice—The Occasion For The Parable (18:9)

A. Pride: Jesus told this parable to certain ones who trusted in themselves that they were righteous...

B. Prejudice: ...and viewed others with contempt.

## II. A Tale of Two Men—The Characters of The Parable (18:10)

A. The Pharisee

B. The Tax Collector

## III. Key Indicators of A Self-Righteous, Proud Heart (18:11-12)

A. Indicator #1 - Air of "Spirituality" on Display

B. Indicator #2 - Superiority & Self-Exaltation Over Others

C. Indicator #3 - Self-Proclaimed Righteousness Derived From "Good Deeds"

D. A self-Righteous, proud heart WILL DESTROY YOUR LIFE

## IV. Key Indicators of A Broken & Contrite Heart (18:13)

A. Indicator #1 - Shame Over Sin vs. Pretense of "Spirituality"

B. Indicator #2 - Self-Aware of Need For Mercy vs. Seeking Out the Sins of Others

C. Indicator #3 - Confess Sin & Begs For Mercy vs. Boasting About Good Deeds

## V. God's Response To Both Hearts (18:14)

All those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

## FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

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- Listen to this testimonial song about the Mercy of God - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HO4Ws7lpgY>
- Read Wesley's poem/hymn about his need for God's Mercy - [https://www.allthelyrics.com/lyrics/charles\\_wesley/depth\\_of\\_mercy-lyrics-1155727.html](https://www.allthelyrics.com/lyrics/charles_wesley/depth_of_mercy-lyrics-1155727.html)
- Meditate on & Memorize James 4:6-10
- Read & Meditate on 1 Cor 12:12-26
- Read & Meditate on Phil 2:3-11
- Ask a trusted loved-one if there you have any blind spots of self-righteousness, pride, or any other sinful pattern that you haven't recognized.

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. Help one another summarize Luke 18:9-14.
2. What was the main point of Jesus' parable?
3. What stood out to you from this passage or from the message?
4. Why do you think this message was important for Jesus' disciples to hear?
5. Why do you think this message is important for our church to hear?
6. Look at Paul's description of Body dynamics in 1 Cor 12:12-26. As you look through the passage together, highlight ways that self-righteous will sabotage this way of living; and then highlight ways that self-aware humility will enable this way of living.