

PARABLES

THE STORIES TOLD BY JESUS

The Pharisee and Tax Collector- Luke 18:9-14
June 14th, 2015

OBSERVE & REFLECT

(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)

READ Luke 18:9-14

- ☀ Read the text at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

INVESTIGATE & APPLY

(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)

1. What does the introduction and setting of this passage (v.9) tell you? Who is this parable directed at?
2. What do you know about the Pharisees? What was their reputation in Jesus' day? (Would they have been considered the 'good' guys or 'bad' guys in their society?)
3. What do you know about Tax Collectors in Jesus' day? What was their reputation? (Would they have been considered the 'good' guys or 'bad' guys in their society?)
4. How does the Pharisee approach the temple and the corporate prayer time? What words characterize him?
5. How does the Tax collector approach the temple and the corporate prayer time? What words characterize him?
6. What is the focus of the Pharisee's prayer? In contrast, what is the focus of the Tax Collector's Prayer?
7. What does the summary statement at the end of verse 14 teach us?

What is a Parable?

The word "parable" (παροβολε) comes from two Greek words, *para* which mean "alongside", and *ballo* which means "to throw". It literally means "throw alongside". In a parable, something familiar is placed alongside something unfamiliar or mysterious in order to help reveal the unknown. Jesus usually used the natural world, which was well-known by His audience, to teach about the unknown and mysterious kingdom that He was ushering in.

NEXT STEPS

- The tax collector's prayer is one of the shortest, yet most profoundly impactful and important prayers in all of Scripture. How does this prayer, in only a few short words, remind us of the Gospel? How has this prayer shaped your life? If you've never prayed this prayer in some form, you should. It is this prayer that begins the Christian life and makes us rightly related to God.
- This parable is about justification, which means "to be declared righteous by God on the basis of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Based on this story, summarize what it means to be "righteous" in God's sight, and what this story shows us about how we are made righteous.