

The Setting

Grumbling (vss. 1-2)

“Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

Self-righteousness (a top ten list)¹

1. Self-righteous people put other people down.
2. Self-righteous people parade their own good works.
3. Self-righteous people lack compassion.
4. Self-righteous people hate and condemn sinners.
5. Self-righteous people love the approval and praises of men.
6. Self-righteous people focus on their good works.
7. Self-righteous people reject correction.
8. Self-righteous people talk back to God.
9. Self-righteous people have an inflated sense of self-importance.
10. Self-righteous people wallow in self-pity.

C.S. Lewis (from mere Christianity)

The sins of the flesh are bad, but they are the least bad of all sins. All the worst pleasures are purely spiritual: the pleasure of putting other people in the wrong, of bossing and patronizing and spoiling sport and back-biting; the pleasures of power, of hatred. For there are two things inside me, competing with the human self which I must try to become. They are the Animal self, and the Diabolical self. The Diabolical self is the worse of the two. That is why a cold, self-righteous prig who goes regularly to church may be far nearer to hell than a prostitute. But, of course, it is better to be neither. (102–103)

The Sheep (and the Coin)

The sheep

“A well-intentioned insult” – Tim Keller

We need to be rescued

The coin

¹ Written by Joshua Infantado

The Search

Mercy – the sheep does not get what it deserves

Grace – the gift of safety and reintegration into the herd

Cost – Philippians 2:6 “Though [Jesus] was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

The Celebration

A community celebration

Heavenly community

Earthly community

A new type of community

Questions for Personal Study

1. Why are the Pharisees grumbling? Is that the sort of thing you do? Has it been done to you?
2. What do we learn from the metaphor of the sheep? The coin? Compare and contrast the two.
3. What did Jesus do to search for us? Why does that matter?
4. Why does the searcher call for everyone to celebrate? How should this shape our hearts, and the congregation at Hope Fellowship? Is your heart like that?