

Sunday Centerpoint

Key Takeaway:

1. Pride causes us to trust in our own righteousness instead of God's righteousness.
2. We often lie to ourselves about our true motivations and priorities.
3. Following Jesus should cause us to love others more, not judge them more.
4. Salvation is impossible through our own efforts but possible through God.
5. Humility leads to honor; pride leads to pain.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was the fundamental difference between how the Pharisee and the tax collector approached God? (Luke 18:9-14)
2. The Pharisee thanked God but was still in the wrong. How can our prayers sound right but reveal pride?
3. What does the Rich Young Ruler's claim that he kept all the commandments since his youth reveal about his heart? (Luke 18:18-30)
4. What was the "one thing" the young ruler lacked, and why was it so difficult for him?
5. How did Zacchaeus demonstrate humility despite his wealth and position? (Luke 19:1-10)
6. What was significant about Jesus choosing to stay at Zacchaeus' house?
7. Compare Zacchaeus' response to Jesus with the rich young ruler's response. What made the difference?
8. Jason mentioned lying to himself about caring for the environment. What are some areas where you might be lying to yourself about your priorities or values?
9. The longer we're Christians, we can become more like the praying Pharisee. Why does this happen?
10. What does it look like practically to recognize we need a "full tear down and rebuild" rather than just "touch-up paint"?
11. Jason stated: "If following Jesus causes us to judge others more instead of love others more, then the Jesus we're following is not the Jesus of Scripture." How does this challenge you?
12. Who are the "tax collectors" in our society today that we might be tempted to exclude or judge?

Practical Applications:

1. Prayer Practice: Try praying like the tax collector this week - brief, honest prayers that acknowledge your need for God's mercy
2. Scripture Meditation: Memorize Luke 18:14 - "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."
3. Generosity Challenge: Like Zacchaeus, consider one concrete way you can demonstrate your commitment to Jesus through generosity this week

