

Sermon Notes and Discussion Questions:
Love is not Proudful
Luke 18:9-17

What were some of the things the Pharisee was proud about? What have you been proud of?

From what you see in the story, why do you think the Pharisee would have come to the temple to pray?

While modern readers of the New Testament assume the Pharisees are “the bad guys” in the story, the original audience of this parable respected them as especially devout, godly people. Conversely, Jesus’ listeners would have considered a tax collector as vile as a robber or murderer. Tax collectors were considered traitors, because they collaborated with the Roman power in order to become wealthy.

How would you describe the attitude of the tax collector? Why do you think he came to the temple to pray?

In what ways did the tax collector express humility before God? What was the significance of his various actions? (Position, Prestige, Piety, Philanthropy)

Why was the tax collector the one who went away justified, or in right standing before God?

How does this parable impact your thinking about God and righteousness?

In verse 14 Jesus stated the unexpected reversal. The person who exalts himself will be humbled. The Pharisee judged himself to be approved and in no need of God’s forgiveness. Conversely, the person who humbles himself will be exalted. God bestows mercy on those who admit their inability to attain it for themselves. God approves the repentant heart.

Showing a loving heart requires having the right attitude towards:

Self

Others

Worship

Humility doesn’t come naturally. How can you develop an attitude of humility in each of these areas?

How do you feel about having the humility to admit your own shortcomings in front of this group? How does this group need to function in order to make it easier for you to do this?

PRAYER