



Stories that
change everything.

STORIES THAT CHANGE EVERYTHING, PART 6: HUMBLE

Christianity is not a merit system—we are saved by grace through faith. Jesus tells a story about a religious fanatic and the Messy Christian. As we will see, if you compare yourself to others, you will always find someone **you think** you are doing better than. But when we compare yourself to **Jesus**? You will find yourself humbled quickly.

BIG IDEA: Humility is all about who you are looking at.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

** Remember the goal is to use the questions to generate discussion, not to complete every one.*

1. With your Bible or Bible App, [read Luke 18:9-14](#).

⁹ Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: ¹⁰ “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I’m certainly not like that tax collector!’ ¹² I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’ ¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

[Luke 18:9-14 \(NLT\)](#)

2. Discuss the character qualities you see in the Religious Pharisee. Which do you tend towards?

- Isolation from unchurched and churched – “I thank God I’m not a sinner like everyone else.”
- Condemning – “I’m certainly not like that tax collector”
- Callous toward others’ struggles – “I thank God I’m not a sinner...swindler, unjust, adulterer.”
- Entitlement – “I fast and give you a tenth.”

3. Discuss the character qualities you see in the Messy Tax Collector. Which do you see in you or saw in yourself when you first came to Jesus?

- Dirty – “stood at a distance.”
- Sorrow for sins – “he beat his chest in sorrow.”
- Compared himself to God, not others – “dared not even lift his eyes to heaven.”
- Asked God for covering of sins – “God, be merciful to me, a sinner.”
- Honest – “The sinner.”

4. How have you changed from when you first became a Jesus follower? (both positive and negative) In what ways should you return to your beginnings?

5. Dave said, “Whether willingly humble or forcibly humbled, humility is inevitable.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

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