

LOADED STORIES PT. 2

TRANSFORMATION,
NOT COMPARISON.

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To some who were **confident** of their own righteousness *and* **looked down on everyone else**, Jesus told this parable:

LUKE 18:9

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TO **LOOK DOWN** ON OTHERS IS TO
POSITION YOURSELF
ABOVE THEM.

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Are you a **confident** person?

If so, WHERE do you find your **confidence**?

WHAT is your **confidence** made out of?

Where does your **confidence** come from?

- *Does it come from how you **look**?*
- *Does it come from what you **know**?*
- *Does it come from what you **do**?*
- *Does it come from what you have **done**?*
- *Does it come from what you **have**?*

When we talk about a product,
we usually want to know two things:



WHERE was it made?



and

WHAT is it made out of?

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DOES OUR **CONFIDENCE** COME *FROM*:

GOD'S NATURE OR OUR PERFORMANCE?

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IS OUR **CONFIDENCE** MADE *FROM*:

GOD'S GRACE OR HUMAN COMPARISONS?

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“I am who I am by the grace of God....”

- APOSTLE PAUL, 1 CORINTHIANS 15:10

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WE WANT TO BE **CONFIDENT**
WITHOUT BEING
CONCEITED ...
IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?

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Our **confidence** can come from believing
in a benevolent God -
Who made us and is for us.

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COMPARISON
GAME

Who am I a “better person” than?

Who am I “more loving” than?

Who am I “more important” than?

Who am I “smarter” than?

Who am I “more successful” than?

Who am I a “harder worker” than?

Who am I “more spiritual” than?

Who am I “more humble” than?

BETTER
QUESTIONS

How is my heart?

Is it in the right place?

How can I grow and be better?

“Two men went up to the **temple** to pray,
one a **Pharisee** and the other a **tax collector.**”

LUKE 18:10

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Instagram



313
photos

1000001
followers

33
following

Following

Fara See, a true follower of G-D, fasting machine, prayer warrior, Scripture savant.

LESSONS FROM THIS PARABLE:

- LET'S NOT BE TOO QUICK TO WRITE PEOPLE OFF.

- WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN HOW WE START IS **HOW WE FINISH.**



THE PHARISEE THINKS TO HIMSELF,
"I HAVE ARRIVED."

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PHARISEE + TAX-COLLECTOR

THEY BOTH SHOWED UP AT THE **TEMPLE**

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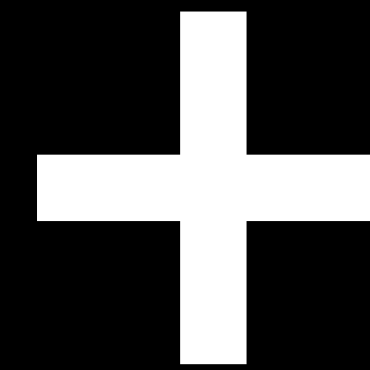


I will bring them to My holy mountain and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on My altar, for My house will be called a house of prayer for all the nations.

- ISAIAH 56:7

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“Every day they continued to meet together in the **temple** courts (big group). They broke bread in their **homes** (small group) and ate together with glad and sincere hearts...” - ACTS 2:46



“The Pharisee stood **by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’”**

LUKE 18:11-12

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“The Pharisee stood **by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’”**

LUKE 18:11-12

WE CAN HAVE A PHARISEE-LIKE ATTITUDE
TOWARDS PHARISEE-LIKE PEOPLE.

WE CAN GROW FASTER SPIRITUALLY WHEN WE
AREN'T PRE-OCCUPIED WITH WHAT EVERYONE
ELSE IS DOING WITH THEIR LIVES.

PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE PERFECT
JUDGMENT.

SEE 1 CORINTHIANS 13:9: "WE KNOW IN PART"

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*“So don't make judgments about anyone ahead of time--before the Lord returns. For he will bring our darkest secrets to light and will reveal our **private motives**. Then God will give to each one whatever praise is due.”* - 1 CORINTHIANS 4:6

***“Only you (God) know what people are really thinking,
so only you (God) can judge them fairly.”***

2 CHRONICLES 6:30

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JACK: STARTS AT MINUS 5, GROWS TO LEVEL 2 IN LOVE.

JILL: STARTS AT LEVEL 1, GROWS TO LEVEL 3 IN LOVE.

WE LOOK AT LEVELS.
GOD LOOKS AT PROGRESS.

THE PHARISEE BRAGS ABOUT HIS **ACTIONS**,
BUT SAYS NOTHING ABOUT HIS **HEART**.

JESUS ALWAYS FOCUSED ON THE HEART...

*"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the **outside** of the cup and dish, but **inside** they are full of greed and self-indulgence."* (Matthew 23:25).

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life." (Psalm 139:23-24)

THE TAX-COLLECTOR DID NOT BRING ANYONE
ELSE INTO HIS CONVERSATION WITH GOD.

“But the tax-collector stood at a **distance**”

LUKE 18:13

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WHEN WE WANT TO **CONNECT WITH GOD**
THERE IS A **DISTANCE** WE NEED TO CREATE
WITH OTHERS AND DISTRACTIONS.

He would not even look up to heaven, but **beat his breast** and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

LUKE 18:13

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REVERENCE TOWARDS GOD COMES
FROM CONSCIOUSNESS OF GOD.

DO YOU EVER
HAVE TIMES
YOU WANT TO
JUST BEAT
YOURSELF UP?

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DEPRESSION IS ANGER TURNED INWARD.



Last year, more prescriptions
for anti-depressants
were filled than
ever before.

THE TAX-COLLECTOR COMES TO GOD
WITH HIS SHAME AND ASKS FOR MERCY.

WHEN PEOPLE COME BEFORE GOD WITH A
REPENTANT HEART, HE ALWAYS FORGIVES
THEM.

“If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins, and cleanse us of all unrighteousness.”

1 JOHN 1:8-9

*“When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Interlude. **Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the LORD."** And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. Interlude.” - PSALM 32:5*

**“I tell you that this man, rather than the other,
went home justified before God.”**

LUKE 18:14

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“For all those who exalt themselves **will be humbled,
and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”**

LUKE 18:14

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THE PHARISEE COMPARED HIMSELF WITH **OTHERS**.
THE TAX-COLLECTOR COMPARED HIMSELF WITH
GOD'S WILL.