



STORY-FORMED

PARABLES OF JESUS

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector – Luke 18:9-14

July 21, 2024

In this account of two very different men heading to church, Jesus the master storyteller, delivers a verdict of which one was righteous before God that no one expected. This story is nothing short of the glorious Gospel in parable format!

For personal reflection/community discussion

Read – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasised, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarise these verses in 10 words or less)

Examine – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does it reveal about people?
- How do you think the writer wanted his reader to respond to these words?

Apply - After seeking to understand God's Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

- Why does this parable turn our expectations of God upside down? What does it show us about God?
- Do you ever find the ways of God offensive? And if so when and why?
- How does knowing the cultural background of the Pharisees and the Tax Collector help us understand the parable?
- When you compare yourself with others, do you tend towards pride or despair? How does this parable help you?