

How can this group support you in prayer this coming week?



The Futility of...Religion?
Luke 18:9-14

Heath Hardesty, 2/26/12

If you would like to become a part of a small group please contact
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The Futility of...Religion?
Luke 18:9-14
Message-based Small Group Lesson

Overview

In verse 9, Luke states the very specific purpose Jesus had for telling this parable. He contrasts two remarkably different men. The Pharisee was a man whose primary concern was in keeping the Law of Moses. The tax collector was a man who worked on behalf of the Roman government by collecting taxes from his fellow Jews, often with tremendous personal benefit. In these two men we see dramatically different demeanors. Sitting again at the feet of the master storyteller, what is it that Jesus is saying to us today?

Engaging with each other

1. During your school years, would you say that you were a part of the “in” crowd or part of a different crowd?
2. What is your favorite place to pray?

Engaging with the Bible

1. Read Luke 18:9-14
2. Who in this story do you reflexively identify with, the Pharisee or the tax collector?
3. What are the differences in the approach between the Pharisee and the tax collector when praying to God?

4. The tax collector was intensely despised because he was a collaborator against his own people by being in league with the Roman government. What would be a modern day parallel for someone that might be as culturally despised as the tax collector? What would be a modern day parallel to the Pharisee?
5. Do you find that there are those we assume to be saved and those we assume cannot be saved because of their employment or position in society?
6. What do you make of the Pharisee “standing by himself” (verse 11) in the temple?
7. This parable has many similarities to the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Discuss the similarities that you see.

Engaging with our lives

1. What are the good things in your life that become bad things because you use them to compare yourselves to others?
2. Do you find it difficult to pray with others? Why or why not?
3. In what **specific** areas of your life do you find you trust in yourself rather than the God who created everything?