



MESSAGE SUMMARY

Bible Reading: Luke 18:9-14

According to the introduction to the parable, and the prayer of the Pharisee, they ‘trusted in themselves that they were righteous and treated others in contempt’. This may not always come out in our prayers, but is this attitude there, in our thoughts, hearts, lives?

The Tax Collector beats his breast, a sign of intense sorrow (see Isaiah 32:12; Luke 23:48), clearly convicted about his sinfulness. Proper conviction leads to real change (see Jonah 3:4-10). Maybe we need to sit in sackcloth, feel the weight of sin and then approach God, asking, ‘have mercy on me, a sinner.’

We can’t sit in sackcloth too long, cannot wallow in our guilt and shame. We don’t wait to have it all together to come before Jesus, otherwise we will never move.

Humility comes from knowing where we’ve come from, and who pulled us out of that place.

The Tax Collector receives redemption, goes home justified, and Jesus concludes with a simple, but radical statement: ‘For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.’

DISCUSSION

ICE BREAKER: How would you define humility? Who do you know that is truly humble?

READ: Luke 18:9-14

- **Be honest: do you relate at all to the Pharisee? Do you think, I’m glad I’m not like them, or do you ever trust in your own righteousness?**
- **What about the tax collector? Have you ever been in that place where you just feel unworthy to approach God? How can we grow this sort of humility before God?**
Humility grows as we take our eyes off ourselves. *"Humility is not denying the power you have but admitting that the power comes through you and not from you."* (Fred Smith)
- **The Tax Collector goes home justified because of his humility. Obviously this is a parable, but is this true in life? Is humility required for us to be justified and receive redemption?**

CONCLUDING THOUGHT: If we really know how great and holy God is, how far we fall short of that, and just what He has done to save us and sustain us, we cannot be proud, we have to fall to our knees and walk humbly with Him.

PRAISE: Spend some time together praising God. Be as creative as you want – maybe write things down, share things in pairs, listen or sing a song. Just give God glory for what He has done in your life, recognise where you’ve come from and how it is only through God’s power and love, not from ourselves.