

Parable of the Two Prayers

Luke 18⁹⁻¹⁴

Warm Up Question(s) – Choose one

- What is something you are really good at & something you are really bad at?
- How do the things you do well at, and poorly at, make you feel?

Introduction

Have you ever heard a prayer that made you cringe? Have you ever heard a prayer that left a lasting impact? In today's parable Jesus tells us about two people who went to worship God, one well accustomed to it and the other a rookie totally out of his element. Both made a lasting impression but the kind of impression each left might surprise you.

Discovering the Word

- 1) **Read Luke 18:9-14.** According to verse 9, what issue is Jesus addressing with this parable? How big or widespread of an issue do you think this is today?
- 2) How would people in Jesus' day view the two characters in this parable?
- 3) How would you describe a Pharisee to someone who had never seen or heard one? How would you describe a tax collector (e.g. dynamic equivalent of each in our day = _____)?
- 4) Why do you think the Pharisee went to the temple to pray? Why this prayer?
- 5) Have you ever seen or heard prayers that felt or sounded like this?
- 6) Why do you think the tax collector went to the temple to pray? Why this prayer?
- 7) Have you ever seen or heard or prayed prayers that felt or sounded like the Pharisee or like this tax collector?
- 8) What reasons did you have for going to church last Sunday? Did you feel it was worth your (and God's) time and effort? Why or why not?
- 9) What do you think God hopes to see and hear from us when we worship?
- 10) How can we grow in righteousness without become self-righteous?