



## Kingdom Come: The Pharisee & the Tax Collector

LUKE 18:9-14 | APRIL 2 & 3, 2016

We continue through Luke in the Kingdom Come series and learn a little more about God's kingdom and heart for his people. We learn through a parable which is a little story with a big point. As is often the case, the story Jesus tells reverses the outcome from what one might expect revealing God's "upside down" kingdom and uncommon love. While man looks at the outward appearances, God looks at the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7)

### WITH THE GROUP



#### LEARNING | BEGINNING TO CONNECT WITH THE TOPIC

Have you encountered "religious people" who come off as self-righteous and judgmental? What do you remember about the interaction or the ways it made you feel? How have you been the Pharisee in your life? How has the Church been guilty of acting this way?



#### LEARNING | GETTING CLEAR ON WHAT WAS TAUGHT

What would Jesus' hearers understand about a Pharisee and a Tax Collector? What prejudice or preconceptions would govern their expectations? What twist did Jesus add?

Which do you think is more important to Jesus: who we are or what we do? Are they related? Why or How?



#### LOVING | GROWING OUR HEART FOR A LOVING GOD

What part of the sermon most challenged you, inspired you or made you think?

What does the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14) expose about God's heart, love and desire?



#### LIVING | STARTING TO LIVE LIKE JESUS DAILY

The Pharisee references his prayer and his fasting. If the parable elevates the tax collector's behavior over the Pharisee's, does it also mean we should not pray or fast? What is the issue Jesus is highlighting?

How does a person do the right thing and avoid growing prideful, arrogant or self-righteous in the face of those who do the wrong things?

### DIGGING DEEPER

How would you relate the dialogue found in Micah 6:1-8 and the ideas found in today's parable? What is the Lord's case against his people and what do the people think God wants? What does God really want? (How do Moses, Aaron and Miriam fit in? Balak and Balaam? Shittim to Gilgal?)

### GRADUATE LEVEL

Consider the approach to prayer found in some of David's psalms. What do you discover about his prayer in Psalms 22, 51, 73? Assuming Jesus would approve, what is it in David's prayer that pleases God? Does your prayer please God?