



Home Group study: week beginning 26th March 2023

TITLE: Parables – stories to live by: The Pharisee and The Tax Collector

PASSAGE: Luke 18:10-14

Leaders Notes:

- *Please use these questions as conversation starters to aid discussions. Please don't feel obligated to go through all the questions.*
- *After the reading I always like to consider asking 'what immediately stands out in the passage?'*

Introduction

A parable is a fictitious story told by Jesus to help people understand important messages regarding aspects of faith.

Read scripture Luke 18:10-14

Discussion starters

1. When you consider the Pharisee and how he behaved how would you describe his attitude towards himself and others (in the temple and professionally)?
2. When you consider the Tax collector and how he behaved how would you describe his attitude towards himself and others (in the temple and professionally)?
3. If you put yourself in the shoes of the listener, who might they have thought was 'right' before God (prior to Jesus' explanation) and why?
4. What do you think was the specific sin/s of the Pharisee in the Temple?
5. Jesus was a guest of Zacchaeus and a friend of Matthew. What does this tell us Jesus' attitude to Tax collectors? Why was this so different from the Pharisee/s?
6. It might be easy for us to despise the Pharisee for his treatment of the tax collector, but how should we as Christians react to this, what would be a Godly response?
7. Read Isaiah 64:6 *All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.* How do you interpret this verse? Does it apply to us as believers? (discuss)

8. Read verse Luke 10:14 *For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.* How might this bring comfort to us believers?

Pray:

Pray that we don't become self-righteous or prideful.

Pray God will strengthen us to have mercy and compassion and not to judge.

Pray we become more like Christ in all aspects of our daily lives.