

Sermon Application Study

February 22, 2026

Target Passage → Luke 18:9-14

1. According to Luke, who is the audience for this parable? Describe this sort of person.
2. Why does Jesus use a Pharisee and a tax collector for contrast? What makes them different?
3. Why does Jesus use the Pharisees' prayer, which is full of good things, as a negative example of justification?
4. Why does the tax collector go home truly justified?
5. How will the humble be exalted? How will the exalted be humbled?

Bridge Passages (for further study) → Proverbs 30:12-13, Ezra 9:6-9, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

For Me →

1. What role does repentance play in your walk with Jesus?
2. Do you find yourself at times looking at others like the Pharisee looked at the tax collector? What do you do when you see self-exaltation creeping up in your heart?

PRAYER FOCUS

Ask the Lord for his mercy today a sinner in need of his grace. Thank the Lord for the justifying work of Jesus, whose righteousness is now our righteous standing before God.

For the Mission →

It is popular today to explain sin/evil using a term like "unhealthy." What effect would it have on our engagement with non-Christians if we stop speaking in terms of sin and righteousness? What happens to the gospel?