

The Arrogance Trap

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

⁹“To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men - robbers, evildoers, adulterers - or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ ¹³“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ ¹⁴“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

~ Luke 18:9-14 NIV

1. We compare ourselves to each other rather than compare ourselves to **God**.
 - If we compare our strengths to others weaknesses we win every time. We should always compare our holiness to the holiness of God.
2. We list all of our good qualities rather than understanding our **motives**.
 - If we give service to be noticed and praised by men, we are not serving God. Do we honor God with our service or is our service our bargaining tool?
3. We down play our **“little sins”** as we exaggerate others **“big sins”**.
 - We decide the “little” and “big” terms, to God it is all sin. Don’t let the devil tell you that it doesn’t matter – to God there is no big or little, it is all sin.

The Request of James and John

³⁵“Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want You to do for us whatever we ask.” ³⁶“What do you want Me to do for you?” He asked. ³⁷They replied, “Let one of us sit at Your right and the other at Your left in Your glory.” ³⁸“You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said. “Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?” ~ Mark 10:35-38 NIV

⁴¹“When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. ⁴²Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” ~ Mark 10:41-45 NIV

What Does God Requires of Us?

“He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” ~ Micah 6:8 NIV