

7.

Honest
Humility

Following a Saving
God



Luke 18:9-14

p. 967

Knowing Yourself

- ◆ Atlantic article: “People don’t actually know themselves very well”
- ◆ Honest self assessment important
 - “think of yourself with sober judgment” (Rom 12:3)

1. The Pharisee's Problem

- ◆ Purpose of story stated up front:
 - "trusted in themselves that they were righteous" (v 9)
 - Fasts twice a week, tithes everything
 - Acknowledging his good is not unprecedented (Ps 26)
 - David: "Vindicate me ... have walked in integrity"
 - Never trusts his works for his 'in' with God
 - "I have trusted in the Lord without wavering"

2. The Tax Collector's Merit

- ◆ Being bad is not better than being good
- ◆ Why Jesus uses the tax-collector as the example
 - Tax collectors collaborated with the oppressors
 - Became rich at their countrymen's expense
 - Dishonest & stole from the people

2. The Tax Collector's Merit ...

- ◆ Not an affirmation of his lifestyle or dishonesty
 - Affirms correct assessment of himself – a sinner
 - His body language shows his contrition (v 13)
- ◆ Jesus affirms that he comes seeking mercy
 - Contrite heart a sure way to ignite God's compassion (Ps 51:17)

3. Exalted or Humbled?

- ◆ Emphasizing something he has said before
 - Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled – the one who humbles himself will be exalted.
 - Applied directly to our relationship with God

3. Exalted or Humbled? ...

- ◆ We can hear Jesus wrongly in two ways:
 - Make our admission of sin a formality
 - Forget God's grace & loving-kindness – think he's always angry
 - Both are very dangerous to our spiritual health

Living it

- ◆ God has dealt with our sins in Christ
 - Self assessment based on sober judgment important
 - Done in accordance with the “measure of faith”
 - Jesus’ purpose was to deal with our sins (1 Tim 1:15)

Living it ...

- ◆ Penitence is the essential attitude to come to God
 - Ancient worship began with ‘Collect for Purity’

*Almighty God, to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid:*

*Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy
Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen*

Living it ...

- ◆ Our sins are forgiven in Christ
- ◆ Only in the power of the Spirit can we live for God