



Dr. Mike McNeff
Magnolia Baptist Church
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Focus Question:

What are the characteristics of those who are justified by God?

1. The _____ blind spots of the _____.

_____ - _____

_____ for others.

Luke 18:9-12

Mt. 5:21-22

2. Being justified is characterized by _____.

Luke 18:13-14

1John 4:10

To be justified means to be made _____ with God.

Application Questions:

Are you a self-confident "me monster?" Or . . . have you humbly thrown yourself on the mercy of God and the sacrifice of Jesus to be made right with God?

Questions for reflection and discussion:

- 1. Read Luke 18:9-14. Where does God stop you?**
- 2. What is our biggest problem as we approach this parable?**
- 3. What is the point of this parable?**
- 4. Who or what kind of people are you most tempted to treat with contempt?**
- 5. What are the two blind spots of the simply religious? Why should religion alone produce this kind of blindness?**
- 6. What Old Testament ritual does the word “hilastheti” (mercy) refer to? Why is it significant in the prayer of the tax collector?**
- 7. What does it mean to be “justified?”**