



“HEART: Looking Up or Down”

Luke 18

Small Group Plan

*Oh Lord it's hard to be humble, when you're perfect in every way.
I can't wait to look in the mirror cuz I get better looking every day.
To know me is to love me, I must be one really great man.
Oh Lord it's hard to be humble but I'm doin' the best that I can.*

— Mac Davis

Luke 18:9

*To some who were confident
of their own righteousness
and looked down on everybody else,
Jesus told this parable:*

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- When does religious confidence turn into religious pride?
- What are the usual reasons that someone would “look down” on someone else?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— **TWO MEN** —

Luke 18:10

Two Men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a Tax Collector.

- What are the basic differences between these two men?
- How did their own world see and judge them?
- How much of the Pharisee & the Tax Collector do you see in yourself?
Use percentages — Pharisee _____% Tax Collector _____%

— TWO PRAYERS —

Luke 18:11-13

¹¹ The 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.

¹² I 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.”

- Why do you think the Pharisee acted as he did? Where did his feelings come from? Why did Jesus want us to know about them?
- Why did Jesus make the Tax Collector the hero of this story?

— TWO RESULTS —

Luke 18:14

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.

- Why did Jesus call the Tax Collector “justified?” What did Jesus see in him that he didn’t see in the Pharisee?
- What does “exalting” yourself look like? How do you do it?
- What does “humbling” yourself look like? How do you do it?
- Is it possible to be “proud” of your humility? Explain.

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- Where is your favorite place to pray? Explain.
- How have your prayers changed or matured?
- Why does God honor the prayers of a humble person?
- How do you think our church would receive the Tax Collector? What about the Pharisee? Explain.
- As you close in prayer, allow a time of silence for your group members to consciously reach a moment of humility before God.