

Disciples can cause them selves incredible amount of pain and frustration because of pride - hope God blesses the humble

Luke 18:9-14 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: **10** “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. **11** The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. **12** I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ **13** And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ **14** I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; **for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.**”

I. OUR VIEW OF OURSELVES

A. Self Assessment (*Introspection, personal appraisal, Self- examination*)

1. Jesus is pointing out the two extremes that exist in the human personality

Luke 18:10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

- a) How we view ourselves in life / our text- Pharisees and Tax collectors
2. Life is lived out by course correction
 - a) Steering a car - minor corrections to stay between the lines - not ridged but corrective
 - b) Critically important as a man of God - examining our **thoughts, words and behavior - what areas of my life are lacking?**

Psalm 139:23-24 God, examine me and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. **24** See if there is any bad thing in me. Lead me on the road to everlasting life.

3. Self assessment is actually Gods idea

Haggai 1:5-7 Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: **“Consider your ways!** **6** “You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes.” **7** Thus says the Lord of hosts: **“Consider your ways!**

- a) Self assessment is simply the way a person views himself / decisions that are made in life / direction for the future
- B. Why we don't like self assessment
 1. Self assessment is uncomfortable
 - a) Ever been at a job interview and the ask the famous two questions - “Tell me what are three of your greatest strengths?” — **that easy** — “Now what are three of your greatest weaknesses?”
 2. Self assessment requires honesty
 - a) Seeing where we are at in life requires a light shining on areas of our lives that are usually hidden
 3. Healthy growth for a disciple involves asking difficult questions of our selves
 - a) *How have I grown spiritually in the past 6 months/ past year / 5 years?*
- C. The Problem: Subjective Righteousness
 1. IOW We define what righteousness is based on our own opinion

Luke 18:9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

- a) Jesus uses a parable to bring truth to light - we measure our own righteousness based on ourselves

II. DISCIPLESHIP AND PRIDE

A. The Path to pride

1. We use bad weights and measurements on ourselves
 - a) Our text - the pharisee did not compare himself to someone doing better than himself but someone who was doing worse

Luke 18:11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.

- b) Problem with pride - its an exaggerated view of our own importance
- c) Pharisee is putting himself on a scale of good and bad - based on his own efforts
 - (1) I'm no mother Teressa but at least Im not as bad as Hitler — just somewhere in between
2. Pride makes us the ultimate authority on who's doing better or worse
 - a) Trap of Comparison - we measure ourselves agains other disciples - *Look where I'm am / what I've done*
3. Pride puts everyone else beneath you
 - a) What we see the pharisee do is place the sins of this tax collector on a scale - not as bad as him
 - b) Lie of pride - Making other men look bad makes me look good

B. Results of Pride

1. Pride will destroy your ministry and relationships

Proverbs 13:10 *Pride leads to conflict; those who take advice are wise.*

- a) Doing any work for God takes a miracle - when we add our own pride and ego / we create conflict
- 2. Pride makes your world smaller
 - a) Our text - it says the Pharisee prayed with himself - do you think the tax collector wanted to be around him after that / same thing can happen in ministry - people refuse to work with a man filled with pride
- 3. Pride blocks us from wisdom
 - a) Pride makes you think you don't need wisdom

Proverbs 1:7 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

- C. Gods Judgment on pride - **You will be humbled**

Luke 18:14 *I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; **for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.***"

- 1. You never feel satisfied in life
 - a) There will always be someone higher than you/ doing better / has more opportunities
- 2. Reality is pride makes us believe a lie
 - a) Pride can make us think we are responsible for where we are in life
- 3. God frustrates our own will
 - a) When pride dominates our ministry / we can blame the devil when our will is opposed - when in fact God resists the proud

James 4:6 *But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

III. THE BETTER PATH

- A. The antidote to pride is humility

- 1. Humility is an honest recognition of who we really are

Luke 18:13 *And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'*

- a) Healthy to remember that everything good we have in life is a result of the goodness of Jesus
- 2. Humility says "I don't have all the answers / can't do this on my own."
 - a) What we do is an absolute miracle - evangelism, discipleship church planting - takes a miracle
- 3. Humility deflects praise to the one who deserves it - that's Jesus
 - a) *Ever notice when you pay Pastor Jesse a complement (sermon, sunday school etc) his response is always "Praise God - thank you." Does not say "Why thank you, I am pretty great."*
 - b) **God you deserve the glory - I cannot take credit for any to it**
- 4. Humility builds another mans ministry / Rejoices when another man is blessed - promoted

- B. God blesses the humble

Luke 18:14 *I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; **for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.***"

- 1. **Justified** - in right standing with God
 - a) Pride is incredibly offensive to God / But God is pleased with humble men-hears men who are humble
- 2. **Exalted** - Risen up / promoted / given more opportunity
 - a) Humility recognizes that God alone is the source of every good thing we have in our lives
- 3. Ministry efforts are blessed and accelerated because of humility

1 Kings 3:10-13 *The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. 11 So God replied, "Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies—12 I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have! 13 And I will also give you what you did not ask for—riches and fame! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life!"*