

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 Teresa 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 against 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 resist 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!"*