

Discussion Guide
The Savior Enigma: “Two Men Pray”
March 26, 2023



Big Idea

All who exalt themselves will be humbled and all who humble themselves will be exalted.



Icebreaker

Several parables have been covered in this series. However, there are many more in the Bible. This was a memorable way that Jesus masterfully taught. Do you have a favorite parable of Jesus? If so, which one and why? What is its main message?



Discussion Questions

1. Read Luke 18:9-14. Focusing on vs9, is complete righteousness before God attainable by one's efforts alone? How do you personally know this? Where does our righteousness come from?
2. Jesus was speaking this parable in the presence of the Pharisees. Do you recall from the sermon what the name “Pharisee” means? How, today, do some Christians live up to the “Pharisee” name and its meaning? How may you have lived up to this name (and its meaning) in the past, or currently? Is this a good or a bad thing?
3. When it comes to the tension that exists between living in the world and some separation from it; including separation from some of those in it, there are healthy boundaries to have. Or you could say that there is a healthy balance to strike. What are some examples of this? How may the healthy balance be based on the individual trying to strike it versus some universal truth?
4. If you were to be honest, what is the blank you could fill in for the following: “Thank you God that I am not like _____ (a person type or maybe even specific person).” Or is there a person group you look down upon? What are some ways to deal with, or grow to be more like Christ in that, both spiritually and practically?
5. We talked about how in “*puffing out one's chest*” it intimidates others. Have you ever experienced someone carrying out their Christianity in a way that it has intimidated you? If so, please explain. What did that do to your own faith? Now, look in, are there ways in which you are carrying yourself as a Christian that may be intimidating others? What are they? What is the danger of this?
6. Share thoughts on the following statement: “*The Pharisee compared himself to others and won; the tax collector compared himself to God and fell short leading him to receive justification (the bigger win) from God.*” Are you currently more Pharisee or more Tax Collector? Regardless, what do we both need to declare to and ask of God?



Concluding Question

Good Friday Service is on Fri. 4/7 at 7pm (all campuses at McKinley). Easter Services are happening at each respective campus on Sun. 4/9 (refer to campus for times). What one or two people/families will you invite _____ How will you invite them? _____
When will you invite them? _____ That's called a PLAN. Now PRAY (see below) & EXECUTE the plan!



Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?



Prayer

Pray for the people/families and the execution of your plan from the Concluding Question above.