

Sermon Topic: Lost – Luke 18:9-14 – Matt Cassidy

Introduction: Matt has been doing a series on the parables of Jesus in the Gospels. The parables generally teach a single concept in a form that the audience of the first century could readily grasp. Usually they help the audience to grasp a deeper concept about the character of God or His kingdom. Understanding the concept helps us to live by its timeless principle. Today's parable focuses on the concept that we can never outgrow our need for God and His mercy.

**Study Questions:**

- 1. Read Luke 18:9-14.**
- 2. What terms would you use to describe a person who is a very well respected public figure in our culture today? How would you describe a well-respected spiritual leader? A Pharisee would be the merger of all the good things from these two lists. He would be a person held in that high of regard by the people who know of him.**
- 3. What is your understanding of a person who was a tax collector? How were they viewed in the Jewish culture? Who in our culture would be viewed in a comparable light?**
- 4. Read verse 11-14. How does Jesus commentary give us insight into what was going on in the hearts of the two men while they prayed? How do we fall into a mode of approaching God in prayer, and assume He'll do what we are asking Him to do, based on your credentials?**
- 5. In verse 10, why is it significant that this parable was set in the temple? What does the temple symbolize? What is different about the set of values in the presence of God (temple) and our worldly values? Read Romans 12:3, how are you tempted to think more highly of yourself than you ought to think? Why do we struggle to incorporate God's values into our worldly life?**
- 6. When we realize we are in God's presence, how does our view of our selves, our stuff, our behavior and attitudes come into question? No matter how righteous you could become compared to others, your righteousness will not measure up to Jesus' righteousness. We need Jesus. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.**
- 7. Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. What are we to do once we have a proper understanding of our own need for Jesus' help to make us right with God? Continue to pray for those you are seeking to invite to our Easter services. Pray for our church to be a warm welcoming environment to our visitors so they see us as redeemed tax collectors rather than self-righteous Pharisees.**