

# CAMPFIRE

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

# STORIES

PART 1: THIS GUY

Pastor Brian Jenkins

## Luke 18:9-24

<sup>9</sup> To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: <sup>10</sup> “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

<sup>13</sup> “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.’

<sup>14</sup> “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Use this guide for personal and family devotions and weekly groups.

# SCRIPTURE

**Luke 18:9-14.**

Watch this week's message online: [nlchurch.com/watch](http://nlchurch.com/watch).

# OBSERVATION

Parables are short stories meant to provoke the listener to action. Typically focused on an ethical or moral theme, the "could be true" narratives speak to deeper truths and greater ideals.

In this parable, Jesus is dealing with the perception of those who think that, because of their religious standing, they are better than others. Jesus puts the self-righteous Pharisee in the spotlight, contrasting him against the humble and repentant tax-collector.

- 1 To whom is Jesus addressing in this parable?
- 2 What is the attitude of the Pharisee?
- 3 What does the tax collector seem to realize that the Pharisee doesn't?

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# APPLICATION

All too often, we base our religious standing on our own behavior and effort. Rather than humbly looking to grace, we compare our morality to others and convince ourselves that as long as we're better than others, we're ok. This parable flies directly in the face of such thinking. Jesus reminds us that humility is the path to glory in His Kingdom, and that God is not pleased with arrogance or self-righteousness.

- 1 What is the call to action in this parable?
- 2 How does this story effect our view of others?
- 3 What are ways we religiously "exalt" ourselves?

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# PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for loving me. Thank you for giving my faith meaning and purpose. Help me to love You with my all, and to love those You've put in my world. Amen.

My take away today: \_\_\_\_\_

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