



## **“The Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector”**

Southern Lakes Church  
Pastor Ken Brummel 2-22-26

1. Did you watch any of the Winter Olympics? What stories of Victory or Defeat stood out to you and how did you see Pride and Humility displayed?
2. READ Luke 18:9-14. What questions, observations, or thoughts jump out at you from this Parable?
3. Read Luke 17:20-21. What was Jesus trying to help the people understand?
4. Who were the Pharisees and what were they like? Skim Matthew 23 and Matthew 6. What was their biggest problem?
5. In what ways are we often like the Pharisees?
6. Who were the Tax Collectors and what were they like? Read about Zaccheus in Luke 19:1-10 and Matthew in Matthew 9:9-13.
7. Compare the Pharisee’s posture and prayer with the Tax Collector’s posture and prayer.
8. “*be merciful*” is the verb form for “mercy seat.” What was the mercy seat and its significance?  
See Ex. 25:20-22 and Lev. 16.
9. How did Jesus teach us to pray? (Matthew 6:9-11) Talk about how real prayer is God-Centered, not Me-Centered.
10. In what ways does this parable challenge your prayer life? Any changes you plan to make?
11. What is the Primary Lesson of this parable? Discuss the Doctrine of “Justification by Faith” and read the following verses as time allows (Rom. 3:23-24; 5:8; Eph. 2:8-9, Gal. 3:11; 2:16; 2:21).
12. Even if we understand that salvation is by grace through faith, why do we still fall into the performance trap of trying to earn God’s favor? What are some ways we can combat wrong thinking in this area?
13. What is the Secondary Lesson of this parable? Read James 4:6-10 and I Peter 5:5. Share with the group some practical ways to keep your pride in check.
14. Take time to pray for one another and pray that simple prayer: “God be merciful to me a sinner.”