



## Can I Ever Be Good Enough?

**Series:** Kingdom Stories for Everyday Life

**Scripture:** Luke 18:9-14

### A Pharisee

- Psalm 18:20-24
- Sees \_\_\_\_\_ as the \_\_\_\_\_ of each sentence.
- Thinks his \_\_\_\_\_ is securely \_\_\_\_\_ in his own \_\_\_\_\_ and attitudes.

### A Tax-Collector

- Psalm 51
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the subject.
- He compared himself to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- He saw himself as a sinner, \_\_\_\_\_ on what God \_\_\_\_\_.

We can \_\_\_\_\_ nothing but our \_\_\_\_\_ on God's \_\_\_\_\_.

### A proper orientation in prayer will always change us:

- into people with \_\_\_\_\_ and grateful hearts.
- into people who \_\_\_\_\_ about being recognized.
- into people who \_\_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_\_\_ God and others.
- into \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

A Christian is someone who has been and is being \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel, as they turn away from sin and \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus for \_\_\_\_\_ mercy.

Our Mission: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Christlike \_\_\_\_\_.

**Start Talking.**

- When you hear the word humility, what comes to mind?
- Have you ever caught yourself comparing your faith or behavior to someone else's? What did that reveal about your heart?

**Start Thinking:**

- Why do you think Jesus chose a Pharisee and a tax collector as the characters in this story?
- What stands out to you about the Pharisee's prayer? What does it reveal about his view of himself and of God?
- The Pharisee's statements about his behavior were largely true. Why wasn't his prayer pleasing to God?
- What's different about the posture and prayer of the tax collector?
- Why do you think Jesus says the tax collector went home justified rather than the Pharisee?
- What does this parable teach us about the difference between self-righteousness and dependence on God's mercy?

**Start Sharing:**

- In what ways can self-righteousness subtly show up in our lives today?
- Have you ever experienced a moment when you realized how deeply you needed God's mercy?
- Which prayer do you think your life most closely resembles right now—the Pharisee's or the tax collector's?
- How does remembering God's grace help us avoid judging others?

**Start Praying:**

- Ask God to reveal any pride or self-righteousness in your heart.
- Thank God for the mercy He offers through Jesus.
- Pray for a humble heart that continually depends on God's grace.
- Ask God to help you see others with compassion instead of comparison.

**Start Doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week

- Daily practice praying the tax collector's prayer: *"God, be merciful to me, a sinner."*
- When you catch yourself comparing your faith to someone else's, pause and thank God for His grace in your life.
- Look for an opportunity this week to extend grace and kindness to someone you might normally overlook.
- Spend time reflecting on how God is continuing to change you through His mercy.