

Week 6: ONE2023 Lent Discussion: The Pharisees and the Tax Collector

Luke 18 starts with two parables on the topic of prayer

"1 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart... 9 And He also told this parable to certain ones who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt."

Luke 18:1

What kind of prayer does not reach God? _____

What kind of prayer does reach God? _____

Our Greatest Enemy is _____

Our _____ affects how we treat and view others

What does effective prayer have to do with my relationship with others?
(Matthew 5:23-24)

Discussion Questions:

- How can I know if there is self-righteousness in my heart?
- Do I view and treat others with contempt?
- Do I view them through God's eyes?
- Do I view them in light of the mercy I have received?

The Antidote to Self-Righteousness is a revelation of our sinfulness

"My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise." **Psalm 51:17**

*"The gospel is this: **We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe**, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope." - Tim Keller*

The Tax Collector:

- *Recognized his sin*
- *Recognized his unworthiness*
- *Relied on God's mercy/kindness*

During this Lenten season let's not trust in ourselves but humble ourselves and pray: **Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!**

"Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified."

Galatians 2:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

James 5:16