

Life Group #2: Outside In or Inside Out? Luke 18:9-14

Objectives: We want them to know and understand that there is only one way to obtain approval or righteousness from God. We want followers and those who are not followers to receive mercy from Jesus and allow Him to declare us righteous.

Getting to Know You (15 minutes)

Plan an icebreaker...

Launch

Where do you seek to get approval? Who do you most want approval from? Do you seek to get God's approval? What do you do to try to get it? We are taking a few weeks to look at some of the teachings of Jesus. This week we will look at a "parable" he tells in Luke 18. **Pass info sheet including name, room, phone, email, facebook...**

Explore

Read Luke 18:9-14

- A parable is a story told to make one point. What point do you think Jesus is trying to make here? Why? (How to be justified [approved or seen as righteous] before God and how not to be justified.)
- Describe in your own words the people Jesus is speaking to here.
- Why is that important information?
- Who are the main characters?
- What is a Pharisee? (avoid making them all bad, Jesus included them in this story because they were good in many ways)
- What is a tax collector?

So, in other words, the parable tells how a very good religious man who did good things and a very, very bad man were seeking to be justified, or approved before God. Now let's look at how each of them sought to get this approval or justification.

1. First, how did the Pharisee seek to get "justified" before God? (morality- following rules- v11; religiously v12).

- In other words his approach to being right in God's eyes was outside in. How do people live like the Pharisee in order to be approved by God today? What "external things" do people trust in to get them approval from God?

- How do you use external things like morality or religion to be approved by God?
2. Describe how the tax collector sought to be approved by God in this passage.
- How is this different than the Pharisee?
 - What is he saying when he asks for mercy? (X-ref Heb 2:17)

Why did Jesus tell this parable? What was His point? (allow people to summarize)
Why would we take time to discuss this?

Most religious people in the world trust some sort of external thing to make them approved by God. In this parable Jesus says it does not work and introduces something radical: the inside out approach. This is what we call the "good news" because we have approval, or righteousness, from God without earning it from our actions.

Apply

- Describe in your own words, what inside out living could look like?
- In light of this, what is one thing that you would like someone who is not a follower of Jesus to know and apply from this parable?
- What is one thing a follower of Jesus should know and apply from this?
- How will this parable affect your life this week?
- Write down 1 person that would benefit hearing about what you learned tonight.
- Pray for one another

Vision (3 minutes)- Use your own words...

Don't know why all of you are here, but we are glad that you are. If there is anything we can do to help you learn more about Jesus, we would love to do it. We believe that Jesus is the King who is worth following with all of our life. We also know that people are at different places in that process. We want this to be a safe place where people can learn about inside out living.

Announcements (5 minutes)

- Set up meeting time/place to go to Real Life. Describe what Real Life is.
- Work on creative date plan. This is a great thing to invite others to that have not come to Life Group before.