

Be Merciful to Me, a Sinner

Luke 18:9-14 // Pastor Todd Dugard

March 24-25, 2018

Open Up

Do you think people in Jesus' day enjoyed this parable? How do you think people reacted to hearing it?

Dig In: The parable sets up a comparison between the Pharisee who thinks he is acceptable to God, and the Tax Collector who is truly accepted, but doesn't expect to be. Both men need mercy, but only the one who admitted his sin received forgiveness for it.

- Even if you aren't happy to admit it, what might you have in common with the Pharisee described in this parable? (v. 9)
- Why is comparison to others such a poor way to determine what God thinks of us? How does this practice mislead a person to withhold mercy in cases where God would offer it?
- Has your sinfulness ever brought you low enough to feel ashamed before God? Why is it difficult to bring our shame to God in prayer?
- What posture and attitude might someone with a broken spirit display in your church?
- How does Jesus want you to respond to people in their lowest moments of shame and guilt? Why?
- Have you ever felt unacceptable to God while you're at church and looking for mercy? How do this parable and passages like Ephesians 2:13 challenge your thinking?
- What can you do to ensure that you always have God's view about what makes you righteous in his sight? (Ephesians 2:8-10)
- How can you, this week, avoid making spiritual misjudgments about people and offer them mercy instead of your version of self-righteous condemnation?

Break Out

Pray about this: What sin are you broken up about when you come close to God? How are you trying to hide it through self-righteous behaviors? How is your broken heart showing through in your posture and attitude at church?

