

# Message Notes

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**Date:** June 25, 2017

**Bible Focus:** Luke 18:9-14

**Current Series:** The Stories Jesus Told

**Message Title:** Merit or Mercy?

Those on the Path of Merit:

- \_\_\_\_\_ themselves
- View sin and righteousness only in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ terms
- Remain \_\_\_\_\_ before God

Those on the Path of Mercy:

- \_\_\_\_\_ themselves
- View sin and righteousness in \_\_\_\_\_ terms
- Declared \_\_\_\_\_ before God

*“For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted” (v. 14).*

## Life Group Message Discussion Questions

Luke 18:9-14

1. Read Luke 18:9-14. What is Jesus’ stated purpose for this parable, and what is His concluding principle?
2. What images or thoughts come to mind when you hear the term “self-righteous”? Do you think the problem of self-righteous people is as much an issue today as it was in Jesus’ day?
3. If Jesus were to tell this parable today, what group of people would be the “Pharisees”? What group would be the “tax collector”?
4. Where do you see the attitudes and approaches of the Pharisee and the tax collector operating in your own life? Where do you struggle with justifying yourself and being humble before God?
5. What are some areas of your faith where you are most prone to compare yourself to others?
6. Who are some people or groups about whom you’ve ever thought, “I am thankful that I am not like them”?
7. Is it okay to be “better” than others in terms of your spiritual maturity? How can you do so without becoming self-righteous?
8. Do you think that it’s fair for God to justify a terrible sinner the instant he or she believes and to condemn a good person who tries to do the best he or she can? Why or why not?
9. What are some other Scriptures that come to mind when you consider Jesus’ statement in verse 14, “For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted”?