

TAKE HOME SHEET



Series: A Bigger Story
Message: Chapter One
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: September 29, 2024

Read Luke 18:9–14 (NLT) a couple of times – out loud if possible.

Who do you initially identify with in the story?

Why do you think the Pharisee was so comfortable comparing himself with the tax collector?

How do you think the tax collector might have felt coming into the Temple and knowing he was despised by others?

When you think about others you disagree with politically or socially, which of the following attitudes do you gravitate toward? (Circle the ones that you identify with): curiosity, irritation, anger, insecurity, dismissal, concern, hatred, others...

Now, knowing that God is full of both truth and love, how do you think God's attitude is toward them?

What might God have been doing to get the tax collector's attention on his need for forgiveness?

What might God do to get the Pharisee's attention on his arrogance?

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:

NLT – New Living Translation
NIV – New International Version

MESSAGE NOTES



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⁹ Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: ¹⁰ “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I’m certainly not like that tax collector! ¹² I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’ ¹³ But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Luke 18:9–14 (NLT)

In our series we are going to be looking at three crucial characteristics that followers of Jesus need to adopt, grow, and protect: humility, hope, and love.

A simple way to keep these in mind is H₂L₂.

Humility.

No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8 (NLT)

Hope.

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

Hebrews 6:19 (NIV)

Love for God AND love for others.

³⁷ Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.” ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:37–40 (NLT)