



## Part 4: A Tale of Two Confessions

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### A Tale of Two Confessions LUKE 18:9-13

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable:

**The Target:** People who believe that they have arrived

#### Confession 1 LUKE 18:10-12

"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'"

**The Pharisee:** The sin of pride (*1 Corinthians 10:12*)

The compromise of comparison

The tragedy of spiritual trophies

**The Confession:** Ineffective and wasted

#### Confession 2 LUKE 18:13

But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'"

**The Tax Collector:** The beauty of humility (*James 4:6 and 10*)

The power of a 3-word confession...

Me, a sinner

The blessing of mercy

**The Confession:** Received and justified

### The Truth of the Tale LUKE 18:14

"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

*(Continues on back)*

## Next Steps

If you have not made a confession before God during this series, here is your opportunity. Humble yourself, tell God the truth about your soul, write out your confession on one of the confession sheets at the front of the church and place it in the "Confession Cross" before you leave church this weekend. Claim 1 John 1:9 and walk free!

## On your way home:

What simple 3-word confession do you need to make before God right now? Say it out loud – God will hear you.

### Small Group Discussion Questions



- 1) Have you ever heard a public confession? What was the main question running through your mind about the person who was confessing?
- 2) Do you think it's a sin to compare yourself to someone else? How so?
- 3) Why is pride the greatest obstacle between man and God? What biblical instances of pride can you think of, and what were the consequences to the prideful person?
- 4) How do we exalt ourselves in the 21st century? See Luke 18:14 for the context.
- 5) Do you have any confessions that God is clearly prompting you say to your small group tonight?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?