

## The Sinner's Prayer

**Luke 18:9-17**

Theme: Righteousness is a gift of God made possible by means of an atonement sacrifice which is received by those who humbly admit they are sinners in need of God's grace and missed by the self-righteous.

**1) Two Attitudes to approaching God (vv.9-10)**

A) A \_\_\_\_\_

B) A \_\_\_\_\_

**2) A great Contrast (vv.11-13)**

A) \_\_\_\_\_-sufficiency

B) \_\_\_\_\_ sufficiency

**3) A Profound Proverb of Reversal (v.14)**

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## Small Group Questions

### REFLECT

1. In what way did the Pharisee demonstrate that he was “trusting in himself, that he was righteous’ - v.9?
2. How was he treating the tax collector with contempt?
3. How is v.12 a statement about how righteous this Pharisee thought he was? This verse is at the center of the parable and thus is important. How do you think it is central to the theme of the parable?
4. Look at the two references that describe how these two men were “standing” in vv.11&13. What does it tell you about them?
5. How would you describe the attitude of the tax collector in v.13?
6. Explain in your own words the significance of the expression “be merciful to me” in light of its connection to the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant. (You might have to listen again to the message from Sunday online to get it.)
7. Notice the reverse order between the beginning of v.10 and v.14. How has the order of who went up and then who went down changed?
8. How does Jesus describe the tax collector in v.14? Give your own definition of “justified”
9. Explain the proverb at the end in light of the meaning of the parable.

### RESPOND

In what ways do we often try to “justify” ourselves before God?  
How has a deeper understanding of the atonement in light of the mercy seat helped you appreciate God’s grace?

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