



## Can't Live Without It Week 2 – HUMILITY Spiritual Formation & Discussion Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at [info@wschurch.org](mailto:info@wschurch.org).

### Scripture:

Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: <sup>10</sup>“Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. <sup>11</sup>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! <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’

<sup>13</sup>“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.’ <sup>14</sup>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

### Reflection Questions:

- Have you been participating in the 21 Days of Selfless Living? Describe your experience so far in 5 words or less.
- What stood out to you from Sunday's service? How did you sense God encouraging and challenging you through the songs, the message, and being with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- How do you react when you spot prideful or hypocritical people (like the pharisees in Jesus' day)?
- How do you react when you spot pride or hypocrisy in your own life?
- In the message, Eddie shared that “faith is an inside-out job. First, God does his work IN us; then, God does his work THROUGH us! God wants to finish what he starts, and he wants our spiritual lives to be cooked over an open fire for a long time, not microwaved.” How do you react to this idea that God needs to do work inside of us first – and that it will take a long time?
- Read the story in Luke 18:9-14. It shows two main characters who approach God in very different ways.

- After you read it, make a list of what you notice about each person.
- In your own words, what is Jesus teaching in telling this story?
- Eddie shared a few lessons and observations about the Pharisee in this story:
  - A proud faith is a performance faith.
  - One result of an outward faith is falling into the trap of comparison.
  - We trust our accomplishments instead of Christ.

Then, in contrast, the tax collector was not presumptuous with God.

Do you find yourself in any of these phrases? Take a moment to reflect on your own.

- Is there anything else from this teaching that you want to explore more?
- Take time to pray as you close your time of reflection or discussion, asking God to help you act on what he has asked you to do. Use the prayer from the story in Luke 18: “God, be merciful to me, a sinner.”

### **Join us for 21 Days of Selfless Living!**

Starting today (September 17<sup>th</sup>), we are embarking on a journey to become more like Jesus by becoming more selfless. Learn about how to be part of it at the 21 Days of Selfless Living page at <http://www.wschurch.org/21days>.

### **Message Main Points and Scripture:**

- **Humility**
- Matthew 23:5 - “Everything they do is for show. On their arms they wear extra wide prayer boxes with Scripture verses inside, and they wear robes with extra long tassels. And they love to sit at the head table at banquets and in the seats of honor in the synagogues. They love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces, and to be called ‘Rabbi.’”
- **faith is an inside-out job**
- Matthew 23:27 - “You are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity. Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.”
- Luke 18:14 - “Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”
- Luke 18:9 - “Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else...”
- Luke 18:10 - “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. 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! I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’”
- **“That person’s teaching isn’t deep enough.”**
- **“I don’t have to hear that from you.”**
- **“I’m not the one with a problem, you are.”**
- **“That’s not fair.”**
- **“Hey, did you hear...?”**
- **“I don’t need help.”**
- **“God, I need your help!”**
- Psalm 46:1 - “God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.”
- **a proud faith becomes a performance faith**
- **the trap of comparison**
- **we trust our accomplishments instead of Christ**

- Luke 18:13 - “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.’”
- **The tax collector wasn’t presumptuous with God**
- Hebrews 10:26-27 – “Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins. There is only the terrible expectation of God’s judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies.”