

“The Peril of Pride & the Honor of Humility”

Sermon Notes

- **“At every step of our Christian development, and in every sphere of our Christian discipleship, pride is the greatest enemy, and humility our greatest friend.”**

-John Stott (1921-2011)

**Two specific ways to help weaken pride and cultivate humility...*

1. Beware the insidious _____ of _____ by _____ (vv.9-12)

2. Be steadfast in your resolve that _____ is by _____ (vv.6-8; Romans 3:28; Galatians 3:16; James 2:18, 20, 26)

Next Week: Luke 18:15-17 – “Let the Children Come to Me”

MEFC Community Group Study Questions
For the week of September 23rd – 29th

Getting Started

1. What are some of the most obvious manifestations of pride that you tend to notice in other people?

Digging Deeper

2. Let's move a little closer to home. How about in your own life? In what specific ways do you struggle with pride? Since our own pride can be blinding, if you need some help identifying some examples, take a look at this list written by Stuart Scott:

<https://ministryinwords.wordpress.com/2015/08/30-manifestations-of-pride/> .

Open Your Bible to Luke 18:9-14...

3. Jesus' parable features a Pharisee (Luke 5:17, 21, 30, 33; 6:2, 6; 7:30, 36-37, 39; 11:37-39, 42-43, 53; 12:1; 13:31; 14:1, 3; 15:2; 16:14; 17:20; 19:39) and a tax collector (Luke 3:12; 5:27, 29, 30; 7:29, 34; 15:1; 19:2). Do a quick scan of these texts from Luke's Gospel as a group. What do we know about these two folks?

4. Study verses 11 and 12. Who is the subject of this prayer? How many “I’s” do you see in these two verses? Do we have any reason to believe these things weren't true? In what ways are we tempted to pray this way – both in content and intent?

5. Contrast the description of the Pharisee at prayer (vv.11-12) with that of the tax collector at prayer (v.13). How many differences can you identify? What are they? Why do they matter?

6. Can you ever remember a time when you prayed like the tax collector? Or have you ever heard someone else pray this way? Explain.

7. In this passage, the word for “righteous” (v.9) and the word for “justified” share the same Greek root. What do we learn about righteousness and justification according to this parable? How does this find echoes in the writings of the Apostle Paul (Romans 3:28; Galatians 3:16)?

8. How does James 2:18, 20, and 26 harmonize with Jesus' (Luke 18:14) and Paul's view of justification (Romans 3:28; Galatians 3:16)? Practically speaking, why is this so important in our everyday lives?

9. In what specific ways are you tempted to “treat...others with contempt” (Luke 18:9)? How does this parable serve you in helping to put those impulses to death?