

All In on Humility

Good morning, I am so thankful that I have been given the opportunity to share a message with you that God has been speaking into my life. Last week, Pastor Paul kicked off our new mini-series “All In” from Luke. We are wanting to share with you all, areas of our lives that we should be all in for if we are trying to truly imitate Christ. Today I am going to share with you one area that comes from Luke 18:9-14.

Before we get to that I want to know if anyone has ever tried a big meal challenge? So, a couple of weeks ago, I tried to do the Highway 55, Big Five Five Challenge. On the whole ride there, Pastor Paul and I were talking about it and how it was going to be incredible. If I’m being honest though, I was just praying that the burger didn’t have to have cheese on it. I hate that stuff! But according to the rules, as I found out later, there had to be cheese and four other toppings. Alas, this would not deter me from trying the challenge. Since then, I thought about what really made me want to continue after finding out it had cheese on it. I mean, I really hate cheese, but there was something motivating myself to try this even with my angst towards cheese. To be honest, I thought there is no way that I will not finish this burger, I mean I love to eat, a lot. There didn’t seem to be any pressure other than the joking that Pastor Paul would make and I worked hard to prepare myself, at least I thought I did. **So here is the video of how it all went down...**

I want you to keep this video in the front of your mind for a minute, Okay? Let’s read **Luke 18:9-14**

As we read verse 9 of this passage in Luke, we see that Luke gives us a back ground to what Jesus is speaking on. He says that Jesus told a parable to some who “trusted in themselves that they were righteous.” In today’s world, I don’t know anyone who would upright stand out and say that yes I am righteous because of who I am or what I have done. You see the correlation between the video of me watching and what these people were doing? I had no doubt that I would be able to finish that burger, I was thinking that I was well equipped to handle any situation that would rise and I would be able to handle it. That is exactly how these people whom Jesus was speaking with felt. They trusted in themselves, in who they are, what they knew, and what they have done to be credited with righteousness.

Now before we go and start becoming judgmental, I want to ask how often do you do this? Okay, so maybe you don’t go around with this outwardly showing form of self-righteousness, but what does this look like in our lives? We believe that if we do enough good things then we are being shown as righteous. Or maybe we even think that because we have studied so much and possess so much knowledge on biblical matters that we have found righteousness in our ability to learn?

So what is the major mess that is created when we have this form of self-righteousness? We see one of the problems that we encounter when we are living with this self-righteousness in the end of verse 9. Not only were they trusting in themselves for righteousness, but they also treated others with contempt.

Living out of our righteousness puts us in a place to value others less, because of our mess! I mean look at what this

Pharisee said in verses 10-12. Our mess that we are combating today is the mess of Pride... So how do we fight against our pride? We go All In on Humility! So today we are going to look at how life will change if we go All In on Humility.

If we are All In on Humility, then we will recognize the source of righteousness.

If we look back at the prayer of the Pharisee, we begin to notice the things that are of importance to him. First, we see that he is showing contempt for others because he is thankful that he isn't like other men. From that point he lists people who he believes are not worthy or who are worthless. While speaking to God, he takes the very creation and says that they are worth less to God than he is, even to those who are praying to the same God just a ways away. He is so full of Himself that he isn't able to see past what he has done. In verse 12, we see that he lists the accomplishments that he has done. I mean this guy would put most Christians today to shame, in the fact that he fasted twice a week and gives a tenth of all that he has. I am not sure about you, but I am not on a scheduled fast a couple times a week. You see this man was so caught up in HIS accomplishments that he wasn't able to recognize that God is the one who gives righteousness. If we flip back just a couple of chapters to **Luke 16:15**, we see that God is not impressed by our actions when done with the prideful heart. As we continue you on through the parable that Jesus is sharing, we see that the tax collector has quite a different approach in his conversation with God. Verse 13 shows us that the tax collector stood far off, but his actions towards God show the heart of one who is truly all in on Humility. It says that He would not even lift up his eyes to heaven. You see the tax

collector recognized the one who has given righteousness and humbly recognizes that he is not even worthy of looking up towards heaven. If we turn over to **1 Corinthians 1:30-31**, we can see that God is the true source of which we acquire righteousness. We see that from God, we are in Christ Jesus. We have been given a gift, and the gift is Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption. We are not the source of our righteousness, no matter how good we may be, we are not the source of righteousness. So even if we wanted to boast, our boast would be about God and the work He is doing, not what we have done on our own.

Another verse that shows the source of righteousness is **Romans 3:20-24**. It shows us that according to the Law no person is able to be counted as a righteous person, because we have all fallen short of what God's standards are, but thankfully we are not the source of righteousness. God's law shows us that we are unrighteous, but through faith in Jesus Christ we are made righteous by God's work through His Son. In this, we have no right to be prideful, because we are not able to live up to the standard. Rather, if we are all in on Humility, then we see that any righteousness that comes out of us, is purely God's righteousness in us.

Not only do we recognize that being all in on humility leads us to the ultimate source of righteousness, but also we begin to see other areas of our lives change.

That is, **If we are All In on Humility, then we will become broken over our sins.** As we look at the parable that Jesus is speaking, we see the tax collector's actions towards God. In

verse 13, the tax collector will not even look up to God. As I read this, I thought about what that meant. This man, was so burdened by his sin that he knew he was not worthy to stand in front of and speak to God. He didn't stop there, instead he beat his chest. As I read that, it made me think that this man was quite odd. Until I realized what he was signifying. Proverbs 4:23 says "above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." As I thought about this verse, I realized that the tax collector was beating his breast because he recognized that his heart was not right. In many Old Testament passages, this action was used to show that one was contrite, meaning they were filled with immense guilt and sadness for the sins that had been committed.

This man was All In on Humility, because he did not care what things looked like, instead he was showing his great sorrow for the sins that he had committed while standing in the presence of God. While thinking about this, I have not been able to escape the thoughts that I have when coming into the presence of the Holy God, while not being broken over my sins. No one wants to admit that they are sinful and have had broken relationship with God because of their sin, but the truth is that we have this happen more than we want.

It is a terrible thing to have a broken relationship with God, but it is worse when we believe that we can fix the relationship without Him. You see, God understands that we cannot live perfect lives, but He does call us to live our lives with Him. How can we live our lives with Him when we are the ones who are breaking the relationship? I believe we find the answer to this question in Psalm 51:16-17. When we look at this verse we

see that God is not just desiring us to sacrifice, but rather that we would be broken over our sinfulness. When you look at our point, you see that brokenness over our sinfulness leads to God drawing near to us. We cannot become broken over our sins if we are still full of the pride of the "good" things that we have done. Humility allows us to think less highly of ourselves and think more highly of God and His standards. With a humbly broken spirit, we will see that God will draw near to us. In fact Isaiah 57:15 shows us this. It says "For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite." You see, God is not only in the Heavenly places but also with those who are broken over their sinfulness. If you continue reading in Isaiah you can see this again. For instance, Isaiah 66:2 says "All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and who trembles at my word." We believe that God is a God who hears and sees us and is not far off. He has every inclination to be in relationship with us, but He desires a humble heart, one who is broken over their own sinfulness. When we are All In on Humility, we become broken over our sinfulness.

As we have seen, when we are All In on Humility, we recognize the source of righteousness and we are broken over our sinfulness. As we look back into Luke 18, we see at the end of verse 13, that the tax collector understood his position while speaking with God. Unlike the Pharisee, he made no mention of his abilities nor his own greatness, but rather he pleaded

with God to be merciful to him, not because he deserved to have mercy but because he understood that his position, a sinner, was something that qualified him for the need of God's great mercy.

If we are All In on Humility, then we will come before God with a repentant heart.

We see that this tax collector is completely lead to repentance due to the fact that he recognized that God is the source of righteousness and that the sins which he committed were the things that had brought about the need for mercy.

You see, this tax collector was walking in humility towards God, understanding his position. But if we look back into the Old Testament we see many verses that deal with humility and the love that God has for those who are humble.

For instance **Micah 6:6-8** says ““With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” God desires us to come before Him with humility, to walk with Him humbly. But why? It is kind of like clay in the hands of a potter...

Isaiah 64:8

With humility we become repentant of our sins and ask God to change us. It's similar to the clay asking the potter to make something useful out of us. How can we be repentant if we are not willing to change? Unlike clay in a potter's hand, we have been given the opportunity to say God create in us a heart that can be used for your glory. Allow us to be molded into the image that you created us to be. Prepare us for this good work that you have for us. We are only able to do this when we walk in humility and have a heart that is repentant of our sins. Repentance is turning from our wicked ways and focusing on who God is and what He can do through us. If we choose to walk in the mess of pride we will not be able to be molded because we have hardened ourselves toward God's purpose and His desire for us. Looking back at the Pharisee there was no room for God to work in him because he believed that he was good enough already. Purely based on his own ability. But when we are All In on Humility we will come to God with a repentant heart.

That leads us to our Big Idea:

You can't be All In on Humility if you are full of yourself!

There is a major contrast between the Pharisee and the tax collector in the parable that Jesus was telling. And it all leads up to verse 14 of Luke 18. The tax collector went down to his house justified, because of the humility, which led to the recognition of God being righteous and giving righteousness, to the brokenness of himself over the sin that he has allowed to plague his life, and to the repentance towards God, where he

sought God's mercy. There are many of us who try to walk with God and try to do so humbly, but the mess that we are fighting against is pride in ourselves. Which leads us to the final statement "for those who exalt themselves will be humbled but to those who humble themselves God will exalt." It is not our place to exalt ourselves, for when we do we will not point to Christ. Rather, we must humble ourselves and recognize God for who He is and what He has done. At the point where we walk in humility with God, God will then be able to use us like a potter uses soft clay to form and fashion us for the good works which He has prepared us for.