

## **Message Series: Seven**

### **Message Title: Self-Righteousness**

#### **Key Scripture:**

Luke 18:9–14

#### **Message Summary**

Jesus tells a story of two men who go up to pray in the Temple at Jerusalem. One of them a Pharisee, stands apart thinking he is better, the other a Tax Collector stands at a distance, knowing he can't stand in his own merit. Self-righteousness causes us to separate from others, look down on them and justify ourselves – however it never works – Jesus declares it is the Tax Collector who declares he is a sinner who goes home justified.

#### **How does applying this message affect our:**

##### **Fellowship – experiencing healthy relationships with other people**

*Do we find ourselves 'standing apart' from others? Do we find ourselves comparing ourselves to others and looking up or looking down to them? We can experience healthy relationships with others, when we know our spirituality is not a competition*

##### **Discipleship – growing in Christ both in mind and action**

*Read through Isaiah 65 this week – can you see how many examples of an attitude of self-righteousness you can find in this chapter. Can you also see how God's grace is displayed in this chapter?*

##### **Ministry – Discovering and using our God-given gifts and abilities**

*We should aspire to live a Holy lifestyle, however our service of God is not based on our merit – but based on His grace. Read Ephesians 2:8–10 – what is the difference between trying to do good for God, and walking in the good works that He has laid out? Do we ever detect an attitude of self-righteousness when it comes to using our gifts and abilities for God?*

##### **Evangelism – Reaching out and sharing the love of Christ with unbelievers**

*We are set apart – but not set above. Jesus is the perfect example of a Holy life, and yet he was often surrounded by those who were definitely not Holy! We must make sure our attitudes are removing us from those who desperately need the presence of Jesus in their lives.*

##### **Worship – Surrendering our heart and life to Christ on an ongoing basis**

*The Tax Collector looks down, knowing the only thing that matters is his own heart condition before God – is there anything in our hearts that we need to surrender to Him and ask for His mercy over this week?*