

## THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS

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LUKE 18:18-30

## Introduction

1. God's \_\_\_\_\_

2. Our \_\_\_\_\_

3. God's \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

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- 1 . Name something that you're probably not as good at as you think you are. Why do you tend to overrate yourself in this regard?
- 2 . Read Luke 18:18. The man in this story is described as a ruler (v.18), wealthy (v.23), and young (Matthew 19:20). How might each of these traits have contributed to his sense of self-righteousness?
- 3 . Read Luke 18:19, 20. Why did Jesus object to being called "good"? Was Jesus inferring that he was not good? Explain.
- 4 . How do most people determine what is right vs. wrong today? Why are these yardsticks not adequate for measuring righteousness? What yardstick should we use--and why?
- 5 . Which of the Ten Commandments does Jesus cite in v.20? What do these commandments have in common? What might Jesus be trying to say to the rich, young, self-righteous ruler by citing these specific commandments?
- 6 . Read Luke 18:21-25. What are the two possible explanations for Jesus instructing this man to sell his possessions and give to the poor? What does his refusal show?
- 7 . What false gods do people worship in our culture? Which ones are you most tempted to depend on for happiness, significance or security?
- 8 . Why would a careful review of the Ten Commandments help us deal with self-righteousness? Read Matthew 5:21, 22, 27, 28. How does Jesus intensify the Commandments?
- 9 . What are the benefits of confessing our sins each day? What two kinds of sin does David confess in Psalm 19:12, 13. What are the differences between these two? How are we to identify "hidden faults"? (See Psalm 139:23, 24.) Why might this practice help us be less judgemental toward others?
- 10 . Read Luke 18:26-30. Why is it hard for people who are financially well off to enter the kingdom of heaven? How does God make salvation possible? What do we contribute to our own salvation, according to Romans 4:5; Titus 3:5, 6; and Ephesians 2:8, 9? What impact should this realization have on our sense of self-righteousness?

**PRAYER PROMPT:** Confession and Celebration: Spend a few minutes reflecting on and confessing your sins - habits, choices, false gods, etc. You can journal them, pray silently, or share with a trusted friend or group. Ask God for forgiveness and help overcoming these sins. Then, spend time praising God through prayers of thanks or affirmation, worship, or journaling as a response to the assurance of forgiveness that comes through Jesus.