

Series – What Would Jesus Undo?

Topic: Spiritual Pride

Text: Luke 18:9-14

Proverbs 8:13b - I hate pride and arrogance...

Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

Spiritual pride is taking credit for yourself instead of taking responsibility for yourself.

Isaiah 14:12-15 - How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit.

Luke 18:9-14 - To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Spiritual pride induces the illusion that you can be good enough for God to love you.

The Pharisees and teachers of the Law had taken spiritual pride to a whole new level.

Vs. 11-12 - The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

When you're full of yourself there's no room for God.

The Tax Collector demonstrated a humble recognition of his need for God's grace.

Vs. 13 - "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

You can quit trying to be good enough when you finally decide to trust God enough.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

Vs. 14 - For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Philippians 3:4b-6 - If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

Vs. 7 - But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

There is a potential Pharisee inside of every one of us.

Isn't it true that most of us would prefer greater control over God than actually allowing Him to have greater control of over us?

Spiritual pride is taking credit for yourself instead of taking responsibility for yourself.

Coming to the end of yourself is the perfect beginning for a relationship with God.

The ground is level at the foot of the cross.