

## Small Group Leaders' Guide | Sermon Questions, March 20<sup>th</sup> 2016

The Gospel in Story | The Pharisee & Tax Collector (Lk 18:9-14)

Travis answered the main question of Holy Week: “How did we get here?” by outlining:

- A parable on prayer (Lk 18:9-14a) which leads to
  - A principle of the kingdom (Lk 18:14b) which leads to
  - The procession of the king (Lk 19:28ff)
1. Travis highlighted the true lecherousness of the Tax Collector and self-consumed pride of the Pharisee to contrast their actions. What stands out about their physical actions, their words, *and* what we can infer about their intentions that Jesus was emphasizing in the parable?
  2. If the right reason to come to church is to pray, to put it one way, what are some other reasons that you come to church? How do those other reasons pull us away from the heart of the tax collector?
  3. We see from the parable that it is easy to look like we're praying when we're not really praying at all, how much of your praying is actually praying?
  4. Hypocrisy is difficult to self-diagnose. Is there someone or a group of someone's in your life that you let speak into your life? If not, who could you go to?
  5. In what ways do our Pharisee church cultures keep tax collectors from becoming part of the congregation? How have you played a role in that? How can you change it?
  6. Hearing the passion of young, sometimes immature, believers can often be refreshing and powerful for those on well into their journey. If you're seasoned in faith, how might you be able to partner with new believers on their journey? If you're new on your walk with Christ, what ways can you connect with mature believers to learn from their lives?
  7. Travis said “we can go home justified or we can just go home. We have been invited to join the procession” and humility is the way. He also alluded to the fact that, at some point, humility becomes embarrassing (a baby donkey). Where have you been embarrassed by the humility that Christ displays? What, if anything, holds you back from joining the procession with your whole heart?