

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

2/26/17

Text: Luke 18:9-14

Title: The Seven Deadly Sins: Pride

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

In his sermon, Tim started our series on the “7 Deadly Sins” with the sin of Pride. Like the Pharisee in the parable, we get stuck in our horizontal view, comparing ourself to others and looking down on those around us. In contrast, the Tax Collector only considers the vertical relationship of his sin against God, and asks for the Lord to “have mercy on me, a sinner.” In God’s mercy he destroys our pride and shows us who we are in right proportion with who He is as our infinite and powerful God.

Reflection Questions:

The Horizontal:

1. *(Tim said the trick with pride is that it’s self-perpetuating. We think we can try harder to be less prideful, but when we succeed we will only respond with greater pride in our success. Like the story of Terrie Hall who died of cancer from smoking, the danger of pride is that it feels so good when we start, but it will end up killing us. Only God can remove our pride.)*
 - **When in your life has it felt really good to be better than someone else?**
 - **Who are the people you most often find yourself looking down on?**
 - **Who do you see failing in the areas where you’ve succeeded? How do you tend to treat those people?**

The Vertical:

2. *(Tim told the story about the Astro-Physicist who compared the distance from the Earth to the Sun with the thickness of a sheet of paper; the distance to the next closest star as a 70 Foot stack of papers, and the width of our 1 (“small”) galaxy amongst many as a stack of papers 300 miles high. And Jesus holds the whole universe in his hands. The greatest being in creation lovingly works to benefit broken humans like us.)*
 - **What area of your life have you seen Jesus have the greatest mercy on you? Where do you still need it?**
 - **Who in your life needs the greatest humility and mercy from you?**

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A.C.T.S.

1. ADORATION

What draws you to Adore and Praise God for His attributes and Actions?

Worship the LORD for His atoning mercy. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that He is gracious to the humble but guarantees that the proud will be humbled.

2. CONFESSION

How has this sermon brought to mind sin that you need to Confess and Repent of?

How have you lived exalting yourself and tearing others down, all the while blind to your fight with God? Confess your blind arrogance to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and heal your heart.

3. THANKSGIVING

What has drawn you to thank Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)?

Give thanks to Jesus for humbling Himself to bear the costs of all our arrogance! Thank Him for loving you enough to work to kill your pride (lest it destroy you) so that you could be freed and forgiven.

4. SUPPLICATION

In what particular ways do you need Holy Spirit to transform you?

Read 1 Peter 5:5-10. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you power to humble yourself under God's mighty hand, trusting that in due time, He will keep His promise to you too and raise you up and establish you in Christ.

Prepare for Gospel Community:

How has God impacted you the most through today's passage(s)?

Who do you know that resists humility (and it may be you)? Pray for them, asking the Lord to have mercy on them and to grant them a soft heart.