

Humbled to Be Exalted

Matthew 5:5, Luke 18:9-14

Sunday, January 21, 2018



Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you're leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group. ~ Pastor Matt

KEY THOUGHT

You can wait and be humbled, or you can humble yourself and experience God's blessing.

OPEN

- What are some ways that our society promotes "climbing the ladder" as the best, or only, form of success?
- What are some areas in life people tend to compare themselves to others?
- What's one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention? (Read Matthew 5:5 and Luke 18:9-14)

DISCUSSION

- Why is it so hard for us to comprehend a life that is not dictated by seeking to dominate, control, be in charge, or be the best?
- In what ways did Jesus teach something contrary to our society's portrayal of success? List all the verses and stories you can that demonstrate how Jesus and His followers were concerned with a different kind of exaltation than the typical view of "success".
- What do you know about Pharisees? What is the impression you get of the Pharisee from this story? What do you know about tax collectors? What impression do you get from the tax collector?
- Read Luke 18:9-14. Currently in this season of life, who do you relate to and why? The Pharisee, tax collector or bystander.
- Think of the way you typically pray and the things you typically pray about. How do you think Jesus might have portrayed you in one of His parables? In what ways are our prayers indicative of the state of our hearts?

NEXT STEPS

What does this story mean for your life? What is God calling you to do?

Being humbled is a lot different than choosing to humble yourself first. What is one way that you can voluntarily humble yourself this week?

Pray for God to point out your pride. Ask God to give you opportunities to humble yourself, and ask for the courage to take those opportunities. Thank God for His promise that those who follow Jesus will one day be exalted with Him.