

“Reviewing the Week by How I Speak” (Justification)
(Study 2 of “Spiritual Processing Group: Sonship B” Series)

Scripture Passage (Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector)

English Standard Version Translation (ESV)~ Luke 18:9-14

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

New Living Translation (NLT)~ Luke 18:9-14

⁹ Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: ¹⁰ “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I’m certainly not like that tax collector! ¹² I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’ ¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Spiritual Exercise: “The Tongue Exercise”

1. Let’s review this past week. Think of a few times (two or three moments) **when** you complained, boasted, defended yourself, accused, criticized, blame shifted (made excuses), or gossiped (spread a bad report about someone)?

2. Choose one of the above moments that came to mind, and...

(a) Ask yourself (and try to answer) **why** you said that.

(b) Ask yourself (and try to answer): what felt weak or wrong about you in that moment?

(c) What rule about how you trust in yourself was threatened or broken?

3. Now speak the gospel...

(a) To yourself: “Jesus loves **me** (insert your name) when I feel strong and right. And he is also for me when I feel wrong and weak. When I say (insert a moment) because of (insert a motive); he died for that too! We are all good! I am his, and he is mine!”

(b) To someone else: “Jesus loves **you** (insert his or her name) when you feel strong and right. And he is also for you when you feel wrong and weak. When you say (insert a moment) because of (insert a motive); he died for that too! You are all good with God! You are his, and he is yours!”

Group Prayer

Ideas for Communal and Personal Prayer

1. Reflection Question: *What’s one thing you’re processing about yourself from our time together?*

- (Is there a related question or comment that is sticking with you?)
- Is there a praise, a confession, a word of thanks, or a request you’d like to make about what you’re processing?

2. Is there something else going on that what can we pray about for you?