

Sermon for July 4/5, 2026
"The Pharisee and Tax Collector" Pastor Jeff Manion



SMALL GROUPS

Share Life | Pursue God | Invest In Others

THREE THINGS TO KNOW

DON'T MISS THIS. We believe that life is better together! Across our campuses, young adults (age 20s and 30s) gather in a variety of ways to grow their relationships with God and their connection to his church. This summer is the perfect opportunity to connect through our upcoming **YOUNG ADULT SUMMER EVENTS**. In July and August, Ada Bible Young Adults will be taking over the lakeshore for a beach night and hike. [Learn more](#) about how you can get connected! Or, share this with a young adult in your life and encourage them to join in!

GROUP VALUES. This week, we conclude our focus on the group value of **RELATIONAL INVESTMENTS**. Over the last month, we have explored how these investments are important and ways you can strengthen the relationships in your group. This has included finding time outside your regular rhythm to connect and asking someone else their story. Another way to invest in your group is through a consistent habit of celebration. Celebrating milestones, such as finishing a study or year together, or personal events, like an anniversary or job promotion, create shared memories that strengthen your relational bonds. As a group, discuss ways you can celebrate each other together.

GROW AS A LEADER. This week's parable exposes how easy it is to feel superior to people whose struggle looks different from our own. As you lead, be the first to name an area where you still need's God's mercy. When a leader models humility instead of having it all together, it gives the whole group permission to be honest.

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

This week we continue our **Parables** series, where we're exploring the short, pointed stories Jesus told to reveal what his kingdom is really like. Through the parable of the Pharisee and tax collector, we explore the uncomfortable question: Are we trusting our own goodness or God's mercy?

ICEBREAKER

Share about a time someone completely misjudged you based on a first impression. What did they get wrong?

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

Have someone read [Luke 18:9-14](#) aloud.

What words or phrases stand out to you in this passage?

How does the Pharisee describe himself in his prayer?

What does the tax collector do and say as he prays?

THIS WEEK'S SERMON

This week Pastor Jeff continued our **PARABLES** series by unpacking the difficult truth found within the parable of the Pharisee and tax collector. As a group, recall some of the sermon's big ideas and main points.

Our culture often measures whether someone is a good person by comparing them to people who seem worse off. Where do you see this comparison mentality showing up in the world around you?

Every heart gravitates toward self-superiority. Why do you think it's natural for people to feel superior to those who are less put together?

Even people who grew up in church, know the Bible, and follow the rules can miss their need for a Savior. Why do you think it's often the most "put together" people who struggle to see their need for grace?

What does the posture of the tax collector teach us about how we should approach God?

We all tend to build our identity on something—wealth, pleasure, fame, or power. What do you tend to find yourself leaning on for worth or security instead of God?

Who in your life are you tempted to look down on or view as "less than" you, and how might God be inviting you to see that person the way Jesus does?

Both the Pharisee and the tax collector needed the same rescue—the mercy of God through Jesus. What is one specific area of your life where you need to remember it's God's saving work, not your performance, that saves you?

WRAP UP

This week, we saw that the self-righteous and the sinner both needed the same rescue—God's saving work through Jesus. What from this conversation or the sermon encouraged or challenged you the most, and why?