

The Way of the Scribes and Pharisees *Luke 18:9-12.*

The Ministry Years of Jesus: Lesson 1

Note: When you see typing in “**CAPS**” like this, make sure you are drawing on the sketchboard as you teach

Introduction: Today kids, we are going to learn what is God’s way on how to be accepted by Him. And, what is not God’s way on how to be accepted.

Today on the sketchboard you’ll see two cliffs. One cliff represents us, so I will put **MAN** on one side representing mankind. And on the other cliff, I will put **GOD**.

How do we reach God? What does He want from us? How do we get accepted by Him?

You’ll notice that the cliffs are far apart. That’s because we have a problem called **SIN**. God sees our hearts and knows all the bad we do (go over some of the Ten Commandments). Sin pushes us away from God.

A). In the days of Jesus, there were men called Scribes and **PHARISEES** (draw in the heart). These men were the religious leaders of that day. They taught the people about God and the Bible. However, the Pharisees added hundreds of made-up laws about God, and expected people to follow them.

- 1) The Pharisees taught that if people did a lot of **RELIGION** it would get them close to God (Explain examples of religious activity like going to church, praying a lot, reading the Bible, wearing certain clothes).
- 2) The Pharisees also taught that if people tried to be **GOOD**, like trying to keep the 10 Commandments, they would be accepted by God.
- 3) The Pharisees also taught that if they did a lot of good **WORK**, or religious work like worshipping on a certain day, or not eating certain kinds of food, they would be accepted by God.
- 4) Also, they were told that if they read the **BIBLE** a lot, God would like them better.
- 5) The Pharisees also taught people to **LOVE GOD** by doing all the things we talked about. If they did them, God might love them back. So, it was important to do everything perfectly.

Transition:

Let me tell about one Pharisee who went into the temple to pray (*Tell the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector in your own words in Luke 18:9-12. When you mention the **TAX COLLECTOR**, write it in the other heart*).

B). Jesus asks a very important question...which man walked away right with God? The Pharisee who tried to do all the right things, or, the tax collector who was a very bad man, but asked God for mercy?

- 1) Or, I will ask the question another way. Which person approached God, **GOD'S WAY**. And, which person approached God **MAN'S WAY** ? (Wait for the children's response, and see what they think).

C). We can answer the question, when we first answer this question at the top: Draw in the title: **WHAT DOES GOD LOOK AT?**

- 1) God sees the heart of every person. God especially saw the hearts of both of those men (point to the two hearts).
- 2) One of them was very proud, and one of them was humble. Which one?
- 3) God looks at the heart of every person. God hates pride, but gives forgiveness and **GRACE** to those who are humble.
- 4) Why was the tax collector humble? Because he knew he disobeyed God and was ashamed. The Pharisee thought he had no sin, because of all the good he did. The tax collector asked **GOD** for **MERCY**. Mercy is God not giving you what you deserve.

D). So, who received mercy from God, and who in the end was given a punishment of death with no forgiveness? Who came God's way, and who came man's way?

- 1) The tax collector received **MERCY** from God, and Pharisee in the end got **DEATH** as a punishment.
- 2) *Why? God's way is to admit that we've sinned, and come to God for mercy. God says none of us are perfect, and we can never be perfect. Trying to impress God is foolish. We all sin.*
- 3) The Pharisee was not willing to admit he was a sinner and had broken God's laws. He was trying to cover it up by trying to be good.
- 4) God gives grace (forgiveness) and mercy to those who come to God broken over their sin like the man in the story.

Conclusion: Which man are you more like in the story: the Pharisee or the tax collector? Do you think you can impress God by trying to be good? Or, will you be like the tax collector and come to God as a sinner wanting forgiveness?

