

The Gift Of Inadequacy



Text: Luke 18:9-14

I. When We Boast Of Our Own Accomplishments, We Forget About God

- It's easy to forget God when we have good health, and good incomes, and good homes, and it's also easy to fall into self-congratulations and pride, like the Pharisee
- But when you and I feel inadequate, like the tax collector, just maybe that's good

II. We Draw Closer To God And To Others When We Are Able To Admit Our Shortcomings And Rely On God's Grace

- ***We are all sinners***
- **Romans 3:23**
- **1 John 1:8**
- Understanding our inadequacy is a prelude to God's Grace
- The tax collector felt unworthy
- Tax collectors were despised
- Tax collectors were Jews employed by the hated Romans

III. We Help Others In The Body Of Christ When We Are Willing To Confess Our Inadequacies

- Sometimes we think we “have it all together”, but do we?
- Just like the Pharisee, we can become unapproachable
- The Church is a hospital for sinners...not a museum for saints
- In God's great army, there are two ranks – commander-in-chief and the rest of us

IV. Conclusion

- We're saved by grace
- A tax collector showed up at the temple
- His prayer was simple and to the point - “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!”
- *That's a good prayer for us!*