

THE GOSPEL DEEP
July 12



“True Repentance”

Luke 18:9-14

SERMON NOTES

Record your insights and observations from this week's sermon:



KNOWING GOD

- a) Read Luke 18:9-12. How did the Pharisee try to establish a moral righteousness for himself?

- b) Read Luke 18:13-14. What stands out to you about the tax collector's emotions? How did he respond?

- c) What makes the Tax Collector's prayer so different than the Pharisee's? Read I Timothy 1:15. Why does Paul call himself the 'chief of sinners'?

- d) When the tax collector repented of his sins, he did not just give God a list of wrong behaviors he had committed, but instead, he said: "God, have mercy on me, a sinner" (v. 13; See Psalm 51). Discuss this statement: "Repentance is not only repenting of a list of behaviors, but it is also repenting of the motivations of these behaviors." What does this mean?



GROWING TOGETHER

a) The Pharisee prays for himself 4 times (vv. 11-12), and when he prays for his fellow men, it is listed in negative terms. What do you pray about? When you pray for yourself, what does it sound like? Is there a balance of praying for you and praying for others?

b) The Pharisee lived from the 'outside-in'. The tax collector lived from the 'inside-out'. What does 'inside-out' living mean? What does it mean to first start with the sense of approval and then change your behavior?

c) Wayne Grudem says: "Repentance is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ." Why is repenting so difficult to do, and what are steps you should take on renouncing your sins and walking in obedience with Christ?



SERVING OTHERS

- a) The Pharisee said: “God, I thank you that I am not like other men...” How often do we say, “I’m glad I’m not like so-and-so?” What is the danger of comparing ourselves to other people? Instead of comparing ourselves to our neighbors, what can we do to show our love to them?

- b) Why do many people like Jesus but not the church? In what areas do you think UPC can act like the Pharisee? What are some idols that we as a church must repent over, and how can we as a body of believers change?

- c) What is the balance between being judgmental and calling someone to repentance? How can we encourage our neighbors towards repentance?

