

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Luke 18:9-14
Sunday, May 15, 2016
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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Describe some of the differences between being confident in your own righteousness and being confident in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

If I am trusting in my good deeds or the belief that I have done more good deeds than bad deeds as the way to be right with God (righteous), then I am not trusting in God or understanding that the damage of my disobedience to my relationship with God, others, and within myself can only be repaired by God’s grace and forgiveness. Because I have sinned, only my repentance and faith in Jesus Christ can restore my relationship with God; Jesus Christ is the only Way of Salvation that God has provided for me to be right (justified) with God. Believing in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior is the only way God has provided for me to inherit eternal life. I am confident in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, especially because I have read the Gospels. Jesus obeyed God perfectly and became the atoning sacrifice for me so our loving God could be just and merciful every time He forgives a repentant sinner who trusts in Jesus Christ for salvation.

2. What are some of the ways some people today are similar to the Pharisee in Jesus’ parable?

They modify the laws of God in the Bible, the moral law revealed by God in the Bible and through nature (natural law). They add restrictions to the law of God or they omit from the law of God what conflicts with their self-centered desires. They look down on those who do not think as they do. They commend themselves for what they do, and they judge others who do not behave according to their standards or their interpretation of the moral laws of God.

3. What are some of the ways Christians can avoid the sins of the Pharisees?

By trusting in Jesus Christ for their salvation rather than in their good deeds or in living a law-abiding life (which will never atone for past sins). By humbly praying to God and asking God to forgive them when they sin and for God to give them empowerment and guidance through the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit to obey God when tempted again. By praying for those they see who are disobeying the moral teachings of Jesus Christ and the Apostles in the Bible. By praying and seeking ways to help unbelievers come to saving faith in Jesus Christ and believers live the way God wants them to live.

4. What are some of the dangers involved when people measure themselves by the actions of others instead of living according to what the Bible teaches?

They will try to live according to the examples and standards set by others instead of the higher standards that God has revealed in the Bible. They will fall short of the glory of God and God's moral standards. They will fail to see themselves as God sees them. They will not see themselves as sinners who need to repent and place their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation and freedom from slavery to sin.

5. How can it benefit those who pray in ways similar to the tax collector?

They will be prepared to hear the good news, and God can lead them to hear the good news from someone, from the Bible as they read and study, and in other ways. Through their sorrowful repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit will give them the assurance of God's grace, forgiveness, mercy, and eternal life.

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