The Tale of Two Souls

Pastor John Wilkinson
Sunday, January 26, 2020

Luke 18:9

> Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others.

All of us are guilty of trying to impress God.

How to Impress God:

> Don't try to impress God

Luke 18:10-12

> [10] "Two men went up to the temple to pray, One a Pharisee, and the other a tax collector.
>
> [11] The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers
>
> [12] I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

His religion had no heart.

He was a double tither.

How to Impress God:

1. Don't try to impress God

Notice five times he said "I" in just two verses:

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> [11] The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers

C. S. Lewis once said:

> "A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and of course, as long as you are looking down, you can't see something that's above you."

Romans 3:23

> For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

We have all sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God

How to Impress God:

1. Don't try to impress God
2. Humility

This tax collector was humble. You could see it in his feet. V.13 says, "And the tax collector, standing afar off,"

Palms 34:18

> The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.

How to Impress God:

1. Don't try to impress God
2. Humility
3. Honesty

Merciful: Hebrew word "kippur" which literally mean "atonement"

Luke 18:14

> I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

How to Impress God:

1. Don't try to impress God
2. Humility
3. Honesty
4. Face the music