

**This Is The Way
Confession
Luke 18:9-14**

Introduction: You Do You!

Observation: You doing you doesn't seem to be the solution because anxiety and depression are on the rise.

Question: What isn't on the rise? Confession isn't on the rise.

Think About It: When is the last time you heard prayers of confession being offered in public?

Reality: You can't really address what you won't confess!

A Story Told By Jesus

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." (Luke 18:9-14 NIV)

2 Groups of People

1. Those who weren't part of the religiously acceptable
2. Those who decided the first group weren't religiously acceptable
 - They were confident of their own righteousness
 - They looked down on everyone else

Comparrogance: Arrogance based on making comparisons

2 Prayers

1. The Prayer of the Religiously Acceptable Person
 - "God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector."

- *“I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.”*
2. The Prayer of the Not Religiously Acceptable Person
- *“The tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven...”*
 - *“He beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’”*
 - Psalm 51:17: *“A broken and contrite heart”*
 - Psalm 51:1: *“Have mercy on me, O God.”*

Question: Who went home right with God?

“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Conclusion: You Won’t Address What You Don’t Confess

Insight: Public confession may be necessary

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. (James 5:16 NLT)

Recognize: The necessary attitude to approach God

Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart... (Psalm 24:3-4 NIV)