

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

10. The most acceptable posture before God is \_\_\_\_\_

11. The external life of the Pharisee would appear more righteous while the external life of the tax collector would seem unrighteous – why does humility make all the difference?

12. Are there any other comments or lessons from the message you want to discuss?

### Response – Making it Practical

1. Do you struggle with being judgmental and does it impact your prayer life?
2. How can you begin to express a life of humility – in your prayer life, in serving others, in your professional life?

You can access more messages on our sermon page at  
[www.villagegreen church.com](http://www.villagegreen church.com).

We're also on Facebook and iTunes.  
You can also check out the Pastor's Corner on our website.



## Life Group Study Notes

Study based on Luke 18:9-14 - November 27, 2016

Is there a general posture to prayer? Is there a script, a time of day, or even a liturgy that gains the ear of God more than others? We naturally want our prayers to be answered, but could there be a priority to what God hears?

In this message Jesus once again uses a story to stress the importance of our posture in prayer.

The posture that Jesus stresses though, is not one of position or structure, but a posture of the heart.



### Study – Discovering What the Bible Says?

#### Read Luke 18:9-14

1. Can you, in one sentence, summarize the teaching of last week's study or sermon?
2. The opening verse targets a common human failing, one that is at the heart of bias and bigotry. Why does religion tend to encourage a judgmental spirit?
3. How does a spirit of comparison foster an inappropriate attitude towards others?

4. How would you define righteous living?
5. Why is it important to understand the cultural background of this story, especially as it relates to the Pharisee and Tax Collector?
6. Was the Pharisee a typical representation of the group, or was there something more to him?
7. If Jesus told this story today for our culture, who (or what groups) would replace the Pharisee and Tax Collector?
8. Jesus would have shocked the crowd when he asserted that the Tax Collector would go home as the person justified before God? Answer the following questions:
  - a. What does this teach us about the way God responds to pray? Are there types of prayers that God would lean into more than others?
  - b. Does Jesus expand the lesson beyond just praying? Is this a life style principle as well?
9. What three areas of life do an attitude of self-righteousness distort?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_