



## Honest to Goodness

"At least I am not *THAT bad*?"

***Luke 18:9-14; 1 John 1:5-9***

### OPEN

Where would you plot yourself on the *Goodness Meter*?

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Very Bad

Decent

Good

Very Good

Why did you select what you did?

### REFLECTION ON SCRIPTURE

#### Read Luke 18:9-14

Why was one person "good" and the other one not so good according to the Pharisee (verse 11)?

- Have you ever thought something similar as the Pharisee? Explain?
- What does it mean to be a *good Christian* today?

What were the two men in the story going to do? How would describe the difference between their prayers?

Tax collectors were not nice people. They were thieves, robbers, they exploited everyone for their own gain, and had immoral business practices. How in the world, could Jesus say this *kind* of person was justified rather than the one who was doing what one was *supposed* to do in the first place?

When we think of evil, there are some categories that we live by, but do not express. For each category, list a few things that come to mind.

**Evil we DESPISE** (Openly criticize and say is wrong)

**Evil we TOLERATE** (We inwardly flag as wrong but do not say anything)

**"ACCEPTIBLE" Evil** (The wrong we do...even when we know it is wrong)

What do these lists tell you about Evil and Humanity?

Does God work off of a *Goodness Meter*? In your opinion, how good is good enough as a Christian?

What is the difference between goodness and holiness?

What made the tax collector different than the Pharisee? What can you personally learn from both?

**Read 1 John 1:5-9.** What observations do you make from this passage in light of this study?

### **NEXT STEPS:**

- Read the Bible passages in this study several times this week.
- Spend time in confession. What lies do you continue to tell yourself that justify you before others? Before God?
- Pray for God to give you a heart like the tax collector.