



“Humble yourself  
before the Lord”

Philippians 2:3

## The Beginning of Humility

**Read:** Luke 18:9-14

In the gospel Jesus teaches us about the importance of humility. We all struggle with being humble. It is part of our human nature. We all desire to be esteemed, praised, admired and revered. There's something inside of us that wants to be the center of attention. It can't be helped. Being humble is difficult, but it starts with two key principles: Attitude and Awareness.

**Attitude:** Jesus didn't condemn the Pharisee for his religious works, but rather for his attitude. The Pharisees' piety became a source of pride. We may fall into this trap, judging others by comparing their works to our own. The Bible tells us to “do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourself” Phil. 2:3. When pride emerges we must stop and evaluate our attitude.

**Awareness:** In order to change our attitude we must be aware of our nature. The tax collector was justified because he recognized his sinful behaviour and humbly came to God. James 4:10 says, “humble yourself before the Lord and he will lift you up.” The only way we can overcome the vice of pride is to recognize our need for God. Only by his grace can we rid ourselves of our selfish tendencies. If we aren't aware of our need for God, then we will never be able to change our attitude.

There is one last thing to consider. Our worth doesn't depend on the opinion of others. It is based on the fact that we are made in God's image and loved by him. It is easier to be humble when we keep this in mind. Romans 12:2 tells us not to worry about the opinions of the world, but to transform our hearts so that we can recognize God. Ultimately we need to be aware of God's love for us and adopt a humble attitude.