

What impresses God?

Luke 18:9-14

1. A Warning to the "Good enough"

- Pharisees - the ultra-religious, people thought of them as the good guys
- He thinks all is well between him and God – 3 mistakes

a. A wrong view of sin

- Something others did, not him - No confession

b. A wrong view of obedience

- Negative obedience – I don't do
- Offset obedience – I do all this
- Comparative obedience – I'm not like them

c. A wrong view of God

- Thinks God is like him, impressed with deeds
- God looks at heart – v14 not impressed
- Good enough isn't good enough for God

2. Hope for the Hopeless – No-one is too bad for God's salvation

- Tax collector – the ultimate bad guy
- Conventional religion has nothing to offer – only Christianity has.
- God's solution is in v13 – God be *merciful* to me
- Not ordinary mercy, but 'atone for me', pay by sacrifice (Heb 2:17)
- Somebody has to take the wrath; Jesus offers (Rom 3:24,25)

How do we receive it?

- Humility – he beat his breast, wouldn't look up
- Admission of guilt – *the sinner*
- Reliance on God's sacrifice – have mercy (propitiation)

The Outcome

- Justified: declared to be innocent, free from punishment - instantly & forever.

3. A Challenge to the Converted

- Jesus tells this parable to those following him - We need to be on our guard
- a. What makes you feel good about yourself? Your obedience?**
 - You are forgetting Christ – it is only because of him that you are accepted
 - b. What would make you feel good about yourself? A better past?**
 - You are forgetting justification – you have been declared accepted by God
 - c. How do you react to those whose sin repels you? Distain? Avoidance?**
 - You are forgetting your sinfulness – you too were a great sinner

Jesus alone impresses God. The Christian is someone who has stopped trying to impress God, and has accepted God's offer of salvation. That free gift transforms how we see ourselves and others.

Milford RPC

www.milfordrpc.org

Sabbath 27th July 08

Notices

A big thank you to all the congregation who provided for the church lunch last week, hosted or fed the Go team, hosted the barbecue or brought food to it. Thank you to all.

Sab Evening Service at Mark & Judith's 8pm
Discussion time

Tues Sale on in Open Door Bookshop in Letterkenny

Wed 30th Presentation of the Call from Kellswater to Mark
8pm at Faughan RP Church

Everyone in the congregation is encouraged to come to the meeting.
Martin Crossin and Anne McMahon will be speaking on behalf of Milford.

Please keep Mark & Judith in your prayers as they consider where God would have them serve.

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