

# Living Water Fellowship

21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024

COME TO JESUS

**SONGS:**

*All Are Welcome (AT 515)*

**WELCOME & PRAYER:**

*GROW IN HIS GRACE*

**BIBLE READING:**

Luke 18:9-17

<sup>9</sup> Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness & scorned everyone else: <sup>10</sup> “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, & the other was a despised tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee stood by himself & prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I’m certainly not like that tax collector! <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week, & I give you a tenth of my income.’

<sup>13</sup> “But the tax collector stood at a distance & dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’ <sup>14</sup> I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, & those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

<sup>15</sup> One day some parents brought their little children to Jesus so he could touch & bless them. But when the disciples saw this, they scolded the parents for bothering him. <sup>16</sup> Then Jesus called for the children & said to the disciples, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. <sup>17</sup> I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn’t receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.”

**CHILDREN’S TIME:**

**SONG:**

*Jesus My Lord (AT 553)*

**FAITH CHAT:**

1. As a child, who was your favourite person outside of your family? Why?
2. “God, I thank you that I am not \_\_\_\_\_.” *(fill in the blank)*

**THE MESSAGE:**

*PRESSURE POINTS: PERFORMANCE PRESSURE*

**OFFERING SONG:**

*Born Forever (AT 421)*

**PRAYERS:**

**THE COMMUNION:**

Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary & carry heavy burdens, & I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble & gentle at heart, & you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy & my burden is light."

**Lord Jesus we remain burdened despite your sacrifice for us. We carry the daily struggle against our own sin & the sins which grow from it. We hear our own lips call for revenge & violence with no thought to reconciliation or forgiveness. We betray, deny, & justify all in the name of self-preservation. We measure ourselves against others always coming out on top. We reject the dignity & humanity of those different from us though we know they & we share your image & your promises.**

Surely Christ has borne our infirmities & carried our diseases...He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; & upon him was the punishment that made us whole. By his wounds we are healed.

**Where is another God like you, who pardons the guilt of the remnant, overlooking the sins of his special people?  
Once again you have compassion on us.  
You trample our sins under your feet  
and throw them into the depths of the ocean!** (Micah 7:18-19)

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Worship Video during Communion: No Longer Slaves (Zach Williams)

*GO IN HIS POWER*

THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God,  
The Father delights in you as he gives you  
new birth through Jesus Christ.  
-- Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: May the Lord Bless & Keep you (AT 685)

*SHOW HIS LOVE*

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### Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Luke 18:9-17. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you find most challenging?
2. Why did people go to the temple to pray? How does Jesus describe our attitude toward God & others in Matthew 6:1-5? What is at issue here in Luke 18 if we read Matthew 6 as a model or guide?
3. There actually is a prayer in the Jewish liturgical daily routine thanking God for not making the head of the household a "Gentile, a slave, or a woman." So in some way, the Pharisee is keeping a strict tradition of the Jewish religion by saying "Thank you I'm not..." How does Jesus transform our perspectives on other people AND on our own needs before God?
4. How does the Pharisee's view of himself affect his relationship with God & others? What is the result according to Jesus?
5. Put yourself in the "shoes" of the two prayers. As the Pharisee goes back to his daily life, how do you think he feels? How do you think the tax collector feels? How does Jesus see the two prayers? Why is that significant? What does it suggest?
6. What can we learn here about God? What does it mean to be "justified" or "made right with God"? How is this different from self-justification? How does Jesus warn us (14b), & how can we apply this to ourselves?
7. What do you think is the issue with children approaching Jesus that makes the disciples prevent it? What is significant about Jesus blessing children & teaching adults? What accounts for the difference in Christ's approach?
8. Do you ever think of any group of people as a bother to you? Have you ever wondered if Jesus would send you away? Why? Why did Jesus interrupt his teaching to call all the children in the crowd to him at this point? What makes this a "teachable moment"?
9. To whom does the kingdom of God belong? Who will never enter the kingdom of God & why? What does it mean to receive it like a little child?
10. What does this text call you to do?

### Remember:

You are who you are only because of who Christ is and what he's done for you.

Continue praying through the week:

**Father prepare me for whatever you require today  
and lead me in faith wherever you call me to go.  
In Jesus' Name...Amen.**