

For the week of August 18, 2024

Preacher: Rolana Smith

The Dangers of Doing Good

Seventh week in the series: The Parables of Jesus

Luke 18:9-14

What motivates us to do good things? Though our motivations are usually mixed, those good things can sometimes distract us from our need for mercy and the Lord. Through this parable, we will explore how our need for mercy is a gift and how it changes the posture we take in life.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you define mercy? What does it mean for you personally to need mercy from God?
2. Before we try to avoid comparing, ranking, and stacking each other, let's be honest about why we do it. What does assigning worth, comparing, or judging others do for you? (i.e., it makes you feel worthy, safe, good about yourself, gives you a bar to live up to, etc.)
3. What are the good and bad reasons you "do good things" for God and others?
4. What are ways for you to go to the Lord for your worth instead of your accomplishments or by comparing yourself to others?
5. How would seeing yourself as in need of mercy change how you approach God? How would it change how you engage with those around you?
6. What hope does God offer to those who need mercy? Read Matthew 11:28-30, Psalm 51, and/or Romans 8.