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# THE REAL DEAL

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009




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# THE REAL DEAL



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graph LR
  A[Non Followers] --> B[Consumers]
  B --> C[Contributors]
  C --> D[Core Followers]
  
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# THE REAL DEAL

- Luke 18:9-12, "To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: "God, I thank you that I am not like other people – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get."'




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### THE REAL DEAL

- We always view the Pharisees as the bad guys, but first century Jewish people did not view the Pharisees as bad guys.
- Virtues: He isn't a thief. He isn't an evil doer. He isn't an adulterer. He tithes and fasts. He is a moral, contributing member of society.

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### THE REAL DEAL

- V. 13, "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'"
- Tax collectors were notorious for their immoral behaviors. (lying, cheating, extorting, partying)

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### THE REAL DEAL

- V. 14, "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."
- Why does the 'bad guy' get pardoned, and not the good 'good guy'?
- God exalts the humble. When people walk in humility, God draws near.

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**THE REAL DEAL**

- Our character will never surpass our humility. Our relationship with God will never go deeper than the level of our humility.
- Humility is greatly misunderstood. (e.g., lowly worm; false modesty) (art)
- Humility is seeing ourselves in the light of God. Accepting God's evaluation of us, and receiving what God has for us.




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**THE REAL DEAL**

- Signs that I'm moving in the right direction:
- I know I'm moving in the right direction toward humility when I can stand in the light with God and others. The Pharisee can't stand in the light. (Grubb) Humility is rooted in reality and grace.
- I know I'm moving in the right direction toward humility when I can receive correction. (Pharisee prays a prayer of rebuke) (journey to correction)




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**THE REAL DEAL**

- Signs that I'm moving in the right direction:
- I know I'm moving in the right direction toward humility when I can rejoice with those who surpass me. (Romans 12:15) (music; Martin; \$)
- I know I'm moving in the right direction toward humility when my words match my heart. I have congruence. (The Pharisee – gave a tithe, Mt. 23) They did the right religious actions, but their heart didn't match (e.g., apologies)




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### THE REAL DEAL

- Signs that I'm moving in the right direction:
- The sad part is, that we often don't see the gap, when we lack congruence.
- God is irresistibly attracted to the contrite of heart. *God draws near to the humble, but the proud walk alone.* "The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed." He walked alone.
- I know I'm moving in the right direction toward humility when I'm quick to receive grace. "God have mercy on me, a sinner."

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