



## Mr. Nice Guy?

What part of a Pharisee brings out the verbal whip from Jesus?  
(Matthew 23)

- Feeling self righteous
- Thinking we are better than other People
- Trying to look good on the outside even if inside we are full of stink and death and selfishness
- Being an actor

## **The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14)**

How to not be like a Pharisee

- Realize your inability to ever be righteous on your own
- Humble yourself before God
- Receive the mercy of God, Believe in what Christ has done for you
- Accept His life in you

I cannot boast about anything, but I can rejoice in everything.

Questions for Reflection

1. Is Christ in you? Have you put your trust in Him? Do you have His life in you through the Holy Spirit? Are you continuing to trust Him?

2. If not, would you like to receive His life? Would you be willing to turn from your self-effort and the lesser things where we try to find life and toward Jesus? Will you see your need and receive his forgiveness, power, and life?

3. If Christ is in you, are you still relying on your own effort? Are you still focusing on cleaning up the outside of the dish? How can you connect with Christ in you? How can you allow His life to flow into all aspects of your life and to others?

4. Do you find yourself still struggling with a particular sin? Is it hard to believe you have been made new through Christ? Thank God for His life and power in you. Give Him permission to take over more of your life, even those areas where you feel so powerless to change.

5. Do you find yourself taking credit for what God has done? Take a moment and thank Him for what He has given you by His grace. Acknowledge it is not you or your methods Give Him the credit for the changes He has made and the freedom from Sin He has given you.