

Who Can Become A Christian ?

Lesson 4

Luke 18:10-14

Memory Verse

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:20

Opener

Jesus loved to tell stories to help people understand an important lesson. He told this story to help people see that they were being too proud of themselves and judging others who they thought were not good. It also helps us see the attitude of the person who can become a Christian.

Scripture

Luke 18:9-12

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody 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 up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

Discussion

Once there were two people who went into the church temple to pray. One man was very proud. He had done many things like memorizing many verses and he had done some things to show that he knew lots of things about the Bible. He really thought that he was better than other people because he was so good.

This man was a Pharisee. He stood up in the church and prayed in a loud voice so that all could hear. Sadly, he was praying loudly so that other people could hear him bragging about himself! He bragged about how he did right things and did not steal or do evil. He didn't think he had done anything wrong! This is pride.

Luke 18:13-14

"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.'

"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Then, the other man stood up to pray. He collected money from people. He was so sad before God that he had to stand in the back. He couldn't even lift his head to God

because he knew that God was good and he had done lots of wrong things. Finally he asked God to listen to him and forgive him for all the bad things he had done. This is humility.

Ask: Which man do you think had the right attitude when he prayed? The Pharisee, who was proud of himself, or the money collector who knew that he had done wrong and asked God to help him do right?

Jesus tells us that God heard the sinner man's prayer because of his attitude. He knew that God was perfect and he was not. He told God he was sorry for all the wrong things that he had done and asked God to forgive him. He became "right" with God.

1 Samuel 16:7

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

God listens to the person who has the right attitude and is not proud. 1 Samuel 16: 7 tells us that the Lord does not look on the outward appearance, He looks at the person's heart. The money collector knew he had made mistakes and wanted his life to change.

Application

Ask: Who can become a Christian?

God accepts everyone who has a humble attitude and wants to be made "right" with God. Just as the money collector, a person must come before God with a humble heart and tell God they are sorry for all the wrong things they have done. They have to really mean what they say and not just say it so that others will like them or be proud of them. Then, a person must believe that Jesus died and came back to life.

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Then, we must ask God to come and be a part of our life and help us to do things God's way. God hears our prayer and we become Christians. God comes to be a part of our lives forever. He lives in us and one day He will take us to heaven.

Ask: What happens next?

When someone becomes a Christian, they want to follow God and do things God's way. They begin to read their Bible and learn more about Jesus. They start doing things to help others. They are excited about telling others what has happened to them. It doesn't mean that they are perfect. Christians still make mistakes, but they know that they can come to God and ask Him to forgive them and help them do right.

Application

Ask: Would you like to become a Christian?

I can talk to you during the activities or after the activities. We can talk about what it means to be a Christian.

You may pray this prayer privately or with someone. Praying to tell God that you have decided to follow Jesus is very important.

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to die on the cross for my sins.
Thank you that He has risen from the dead. Please forgive my sins.
Please come and be a part of my life. Please help me live for you.