

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #67

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 18:9-17

Sermon Date: Jan 7, 2007

Humbly Broken, Gently Revived

God breaks us. He lets us be brought low. Then he meets us there.

For this is what the high and lofty One says— he who lives forever, whose name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite. (Isaiah 57:15)

When Jesus announced his public ministry, he quoted Isaiah 61:1-3, telling how he would restore us.

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” (Luke 4:18-19)

In this week's study passage, Jesus is challenging the proud, and building up the lowly. So let's approach him now with a spirit of humble brokenness, trusting him to gently restore us.

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and posting at www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studieditor@southshorebaptist.com

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Listen to What It Says:

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The 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. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’</p> <p>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.’</p> <p>¹⁴“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.”</p> <p>¹⁵People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. ¹⁶But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁷I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”</p>	

Bible Study Research Challenge

2. How many of the following can you answer? Use whatever study tools you have access to. A helpful online resource is the collection of study tools at www.studylight.org.

- a. How many days per year were Jews required to fast? On which day(s)?

- b. What did it mean in Jesus' day when a man beat his breast?

- c. The theme of Luke 18:14b (that God brings down the lofty and raises up the lowly) is repeated in numerous places and ways in the scriptures. How many can you find? List them below.

- d. Can you find another instance in the gospels where the disciples try to turn someone away from coming to Jesus?

- e. Where is the passage in the Bible that tells us that God requires humility? What else does that passage tell us to do?

3. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

4. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

8. Focus on the Main Point:

a. What is the main point of Luke 18:9-17?

b. How did Jesus model what he taught in this passage? (see for instance Philippians 2:6-11)

c. How could you better model what Jesus taught in this passage?

9. It seems particularly appropriate to close this study time by approaching God in prayer ourselves, in humility and simplicity. You may find it helpful to focus on the following two verses as you pray:

“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke 18:14b)

“I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”
(Luke 18:17)