

DECLARATION OF DEPENDENCE

Luke 18:9-17

God is not looking at your résumé. He's looking at your heart. You come to God with nothing to prove and everything to receive. Depend on Jesus in humility and faith, and receive His mercy, and blessing.

We hold these truths:

- God rewards **Humility** with **Mercy**.
- Jesus rewards **Dependent Faith** with **Blessing**.

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. Our culture prizes independence and self-sufficiency. Where do you see those values shaping the way people approach faith or church today?
2. Consider Luke 18:9-13, what are the differences in how the Pharisee prays and how the Tax Collector prays (in posture, language, and focus?)
3. See Luke 18:17. What does it mean to “receive the kingdom of God like a child”? How is childlike faith different from childish faith? See Ephesians 4:11-16; Hebrews 5:12-14.
4. What would change if you began your prayers this week by naming your weaknesses before God instead of your plans or requests?
5. How can our Home Group become a place where dependence, not performance, is practiced more honestly? What might need to change?
6. If you're comfortable, finish by silently or verbally praying a simple prayer modeled after Luke 18:13: *“God, be merciful to me, a sinner. I depend on You.”*

