

## **Kingdom Metrics: The Kingdom Metric of Humility**

Humility is the Kingdom metric that reveals the true condition of the heart. Jesus' parable in Luke 18:9–14 exposes the danger of comparison, self-righteousness, and outward performance. Pride blinds us, but humility opens our eyes to the truth about ourselves and to the grace God longs to give. Let's see what God's Word has to say!

**Read Luke 18:9-14 and the additional verses, then answer the questions below.**

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 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. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ 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.’ 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.”

### **Philippians 2:3-11**

“3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. 5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Though He was fully God, Jesus didn't cling to His divine rights. 7 Instead, He emptied Himself, became a servant, and 8 humbled Himself all the way to death on a cross. 9 Because of this, God exalted Him and gave Him the highest name, 10 so that every knee will bow 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father.

### **Genesis 4: 1-7**

3 In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. 4 And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, 5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. 6 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

### **Additional Verses**

- Galatians 2:16 – “knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.”

- Galatians 3:11 – “But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for ‘the just shall live by faith.’”
- Romans 5:1 – “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- Ephesians 2:8,9 – “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

## Questions for Reflection

1. What stands out to you from these verses? Which passage speaks to you most? Who is the parable addressed to? What would you say is a key verse?
2. Where do you see comparison showing up in your own life? How does comparison fuel pride or blind spots? Why is comparison such a subtle but powerful temptation?
3. How do we define ourselves by what we are and what we are not? What are a few modern ways we act like the Pharisee? How does the illusion of superiority keep us from genuine spiritual growth?
4. Where do you see “virtue signaling” or performance-based spirituality today? Why is outward performance so tempting—but also so empty? What practices help keep your heart aligned with God rather than the world’s metrics?
5. What does the tax collector’s posture teach us about approaching God? Why is admitting our need so difficult? How does God use humility to open your eyes?
6. Why is humility essential to receiving grace? How does this parable challenge cultural messages about performance and self-promotion? What does it look like to “humble yourself” in daily life?
7. Identify one major takeaway from this lesson. What insight did you gain? Summarize it in one or two sentences.

**Summary:** The way up in the Kingdom is always down. Comparison, performance, and self-righteousness only harden the heart, but repentance invites God to give us a new one. Take some time to prayerfully consider where pride may be hiding and where God is inviting you into the freedom of humility. Like the tax collector, the humble cry for mercy is the doorway to grace.

*“God, search my heart and reveal anything in me that pride has hidden. Give me the courage to say, “I’m sorry,” and the grace to come before You sincerely like the tax collector—with honesty, humility, and a deep dependence on Your mercy. Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me. Exalt Your name through a life shaped by Your grace. Amen.”*

**Bible Refs:** [Luke 18:9-14](#); [Isaiah 1:18](#); [2 Samuel 12:1-13](#); [Psalm 51:1-4](#); [Matthew 6:5-6](#); [Philippians 2:3-11](#); [Romans 3:10, 23](#); [1 Timothy 1:15](#); [Galatians 2:16, 3:11](#); [Romans 5:1](#); [Ephesians 2:8-9](#); [Genesis 4:1-8](#); [Luke 17:26-36](#) [**SPANISH**]