



FROZEN

You Are A Fixer Upper

Luke 18:9-14 NKJV

Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men -- extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Kristoff lives with Trolls. He thinks reindeer are better than people, except that people smell better. His job is to bring Ice to the kingdom so he is all alone except for his trusty reindeer. Needless to say, if there was anyone that could be described as someone that was a fixer-upper, it is certainly Kristoff.

Jesus is telling a story, or parable (a story meant to convey a truth). Both were praying and Jesus, being God Himself, knew what they were praying. Because of that, He knew and knows about us, that:

You can't get fixed until you know you are broken

The group Jesus is talking to didn't see a reason why they would be considered anything like other people. As a matter of fact, they didn't just see themselves as better, they despised everyone else. Why? Because they thought they were better than everyone else. They knew everything there was to know about the way you are supposed to act ... or so they thought. Jesus is about to tell them a story that will completely turn their self-reliance as a way to show how good they are around; and they won't like it.

GREAT NEWS!

You're not here by accident. God loves you. He loves you so much that He sent His son Jesus to pay for the things you have done wrong – for your sins. That's what separates us from God, sin. But you are so important to God that He sent His very best to save you because He wants you to have a personal relationship with Him through Jesus, His Son. It is very easy to have a relationship with Jesus; in fact it is just like your ABCs.

Admit

Admit to God that you are a sinner. Each of us has a problem the Bible calls sin. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). Since none of us is perfect, all of us are sinners (Rom. 3:10- 18).

Believe

Believe in Jesus Christ as God's Son and receive Jesus' gift of forgiveness from sin. God loves each of us. God offers us salvation. Although we have done nothing to deserve His love and salvation, God wants to save us. In the death of Jesus on the cross, God provided salvation for all who would repent of their sins and believe in Jesus. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Confess

Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord to others. After you have received Jesus Christ into your life, share your decision with another person. Tell your pastor or a Christian friend about your decision. Following Christ's example, ask for baptism by immersion in your local church as a public expression of your faith. "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" (Rom. 10:9-10).



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Jesus tells the group there were two men that went out to pray at the Temple. One was a Pharisee, someone that was a leader of the Temple. If there was an important person, this was it. He knew everything there was to know about what we call the Old Testament today. Every law that was added, every way in which you are told to do everything that you are told to do; he done it. And he wouldn't mind telling you that he knew it too.

Not only did the Pharisee tell people how good he was, he told God. His prayer starts out by thanking God that he isn't like other people. The problem: he is just like other people. He even notes that he isn't like the tax collector that is standing in the room with him! The Pharisee goes on to tell God all the things he is thankful he isn't. Eventually he gets to a list of things that make him, in his own eyes (see that self-reliance, not God-reliance), a much better person than everyone else.

This was boasting to God. Do you think God was impressed? Nope. From this incredible pious prayer Jesus knew the people listening would be able to relate. Chances are, they too were part of the group that would regularly pray this way. Many times, they must have thought "here comes the pat on the back for being so good" but it wasn't going to happen that way. Why? Because if you are able to do it all on your own, you are better than everyone else, how would you ever believe that you aren't?

Once you know you are broken, God can fix you up

Unlike the Pharisee the tax collector, sometimes called a publican, barely comes into the room. He stands in the back; doesn't tell God how great he is. In fact, he actually doesn't say much at all. His prayer is remarkably short: Be merciful to me a sinner. That's it. Compared to the Pharisee, it is a very to the point prayer.

There was one other thing; the tax collector wasn't even looking up. He was looking down. Almost as if to say with his body that he knew how bad a problem he had. He knew there wasn't any other way it could be fixed. No one else could help him but God. The tax collector knew he was broken, knew the things he was doing was wrong. He didn't ask for anything but that God would have mercy on him.

Imagine the people standing around, all self-assured, knowing that their way – the way of the Pharisee was what Jesus was going to praise. But He didn't. Instead, Jesus said the tax collector, not the Pharisee went home justified. That work justified, in the language Jesus was speaking meant he was innocent. God forgave the tax collector because he was humble, recognized that he was broken and only asked for mercy from God. He received it.

Jesus told this parable to a group of people who didn't rely on God, they thought they had done it all for themselves. Because they couldn't fail God, why would they need God to fix them up? He was telling them that not only were they wrong, but the people that they hated the most were the ones God was fixing up. Jesus tells us that every one of us fails, we sin and fall short of His plan for us. There isn't another way we can get back to Him without Jesus.

All of us are a fixer upper. We may not live with a reindeer or trolls, go cut ice for a living or find princesses searching for their sisters on cold mountains, but we all are in need of Jesus to fix us up when we sin, when we fail and when we don't do what we know to do. And God will do just that. He is waiting to fix you up right now.

Prayer: Jesus, please help me to remember that you love me even though I am not perfect. That you love me because of who You are, now because of what I do. That there is nothing that will make me complete without you. I want to be humble, to rely entirely on you Jesus. Please fix me up to serve You.

MY PRAYER

MY PRAYER



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