

# Sermon Study Guide



## Lord, Have Mercy

July 18, 2021 | Rev. Anthony Co Hao

### Reflect

Have you ever pleaded for God's mercy in your life? Share with the group why it happened.

### Read and Discuss

#### Scripture

James 4:6; Luke 18:9-14

#### Discussion Questions

1. Proud people are those who love to talk about themselves, their accomplishments and how wonderful they are. Everything has to be done their way. However, the Bible gives a lot of warnings to the prideful. What warnings do James 4:6 and Proverbs 3:34 give? Do you agree that "None are as empty as those who are full of themselves" (by Puritan pastor Benjamin Whichcote)? Why?
2. The Bible teaches us two important spiritual principles about pride and God's mercy.
  - a. **Watch out for pride.** Read Luke 18:9-14. To what kind of people did God speak this parable? Why did Jesus tell them this parable? Describe the first man who went to the temple to pray (v. 9-12). What does his prayer tell you about him? If you look at your own prayer life, what are the circumstances when you are guilty of having the same attitude as the Pharisee? How could you watch out for pride in your own prayer life?
  - b. **Seek God's mercy.** Who was the other person who went to the temple to pray (v. 13)? During Jesus' time, what kind of reputation did the Pharisees and the tax collectors have? What kind of attitude did the tax collector show in his prayer? What does 'have mercy' mean? In what way were the prayers of the two men very different from each other? How does a humble

attitude like that of the tax collector manifest itself in your prayer life?

3. Read James 4:6 again. How does pride usually show up in your life, whether at home, at work or at school? What does God give to the humble? What is grace? Why is it important to learn to say with all humility, "God, I need Your help."

### Respond

**In Walk:** Are you stuck spiritually with the same sins getting you over and over, your love for Jesus in a holding pattern, anxiety wearing you out; and the abundant life Jesus came to bring is not your reality? If so, you need God's grace and mercy. The Bible says that God resists the proud, but gives grace and mercy to the humble. What steps can you take to develop a spirit of humility?

**In Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You for the lessons that this parable teaches about my prayer habits. My attitude speaks for itself, indeed, in how I express myself in my worship of and communication with You. May You help me be truly humble before You because there is nothing that I do that I could be proud of without Your grace. May Your Name, not mine, be exalted in my life. In Jesus' name. Amen.