

MEETING STARTER

HAVE MERCY

Luke 18:9-14

⁹ To 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. ¹¹ The 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. 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 everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Why do you suppose this is historically the gospel lesson for Ash Wednesday?

What does it mean to “have mercy” on someone?

How might we be tempted to think like the Pharisee in our attitude toward the unchurched?

Why is it important for us to have a tax collector type attitude if we are going to be involved in spreading the gospel?

Think of an unchurched person whom you will invite to attend Easter Sunday worship with you. Write their name on a piece of paper and place it in a prominent place (refrigerator, nightstand, desk). Pray each day for God’s blessing on your invitation.



Share your most recent evangelism experience.