

BYOJ – “Justified”

April 29-30, 2017

Community:

1. Have you ever had a bad run-in with a salesman? If so, describe the encounter.
2. What is the best gift you've ever received and what made it so special?

Core:

1. What are some “perceptions” you've heard, or that you have yourself, when it comes to who Jesus is and what He came to do?
2. When you view Jesus as trying to GIVE you something, as opposed to selling you something, does this change how you view Jesus and what He came to do? What do you think Jesus wants to give you and do you think you need it?
3. **Read Luke 18:9-12.** What stands out to you about the Pharisee in this story? What type of heart do you think he has?
4. **Read Luke 18:13.** What about the Tax Collector? How is he different from the Pharisee and what's different about his heart?
5. **Read Luke 18:9-14.** What do you think Jesus was/is trying to teach us through this parable? What can this parable teach us about the heart of Jesus? Who do you identify with the most: the Pharisee or the Tax Collector, and why?
6. Scott defined self-righteousness as *“trusting that you are always right, all the time without fail”*. He also said, *“Self-righteousness is a deep sickness and it's a sin. Self-righteousness is the sickness and the sin of believing you are not sick and you are not sinful.”* If you were brutally honest with yourself, do you have any areas of your life where self-righteousness shows up? Do you ever make yourself feel better by comparing yourself to others or hiding behind a mask, never letting anyone know what's really going on inside?
7. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.** In light of the questions above, do you want to see change in some of these areas of your life? What do you think this verse teaches us about what Jesus did for us that we could not do for ourselves?

Challenge:

Scott's challenge was pretty straight forward. Commit to doing this yourself or with a small group:

1. Read this story a couple times this week **Luke 18:9-14.**
2. Throughout the week make a list of the places in your life where you're attempting to justify yourself...places where you tend to make horizontal comparisons to other people. Write it down or keep it in your phone: **I try to justify myself when:**
3. **Show someone your list.** Put down your mask and ask for help....first from Jesus.