

**Sermon Topic:** Brokenness by Rev Soon Soo Kee

**Sermon Text:** Luke 18:9-14

**Who is the person who needs to be broken?**

- One who is arrogant before God, sincerely believes his piety is sufficient.
- One who does not see a need to repent but believes rituals alone can gain favour from God. Ritual without repentance is false spirituality.
- One who is blinded to the truth of who he is. An inflated self leaves no room for brokenness.

**Signs of a broken person:**

- Is very aware of his sins and imperfections as God reveals it to be.
- Cries out to God for mercy.
- Displays true spirituality: Turning to God in complete humility for deliverance and liberation from a prideful self that hinders us from drawing closer to God.

**How to build a culture of brokenness:**

1. Right Foundation - We need to have the right foundation. Like the tax collector, no one needs to tell him that he needs to be broken. Facing God leads him to face himself. Right foundation begins with God as the orientation.
2. Right Posture- We need to be humble. Without humility, there is no substance of true spirituality
3. Right Focus - Right focus in true spirituality. When you are God focused, you can see your sin and will be on the right track. We must strive to be God-centred not self-centred.

**AFTERWORD BY PR WENDY (THE BIG IDEA):**

Smacked between this parable and the prior parable is Jesus' question, "***However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?***" This question gives a clue to what Jesus is looking for in our church community. Will Jesus find faith in us? How does authentic faith look like? We see the contrast between the Pharisee and tax collector.

Rules and rituals in the church are not wrong. But dependence on these, resulting in haughtiness and self-righteousness is. Beautifully worded prayers and right rituals mean nothing to God if the heart behind them contains self-righteousness. Humility (in right relationship) is like a magnet that draws God towards us. A naughty spirit is regarded from a distance: *Though the Lord is on high, He looks upon the lowly, but the proud He knows from afar* (Psalm 138:6). This parable demonstrates that one must have a healthy habit of recognizing his/her need and depend on the mercy of God to enter God's kingdom.

**ENTERING THE STORY FOR GROUP DISCUSSION:**

Now enter the story of this parable. Imagine yourself physically there with the Pharisee and tax collector:

1. If you were in the temple, how would you feel about what the Pharisee was saying?
2. Why would it be acceptable to the Pharisee to talk about himself in this way?
3. How would you feel about what the tax collector was saying?
4. If verse 14 had not been there, how do you think God would relate to the Pharisee and the tax collector?
5. How does verse 14 change your perspective of God? How will it change the way you relate to Him? The way you relate to "sinners"? Is there something holding you back from relating to God humbly?