



HIDDEN STRONGHOLDS

Hidden Strongholds

13-Oct: Stronghold of Self Righteousness
8th - 9th

Series Summary: A stronghold is a sinful pattern in our lives that will control us and cripple us in our faith if we let it. In most cases, we know exactly what these strongholds are if we are honest with ourselves. But some strongholds are ignored so much that they remain hidden. In this series, we want to give students the opportunity to break free from the sinful strongholds that they may not even know they have.

Big Idea/Question: The most dangerous stronghold is when we see everyone else's sin but our own.

Get Them Talking: What are some reasons why people are quick to point out their strengths against another's weaknesses?

Luke 18:9-14 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone 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 by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—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 all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

How would you describe the pharisee? What was his mindset?

How would you describe the tax collector? What was his mindset?

What was Jesus teaching in this parable? How would you put that in your own words?

How do we fall into the same false mindset (Stronghold) as the Pharisee in this parable today? What are the warning signs that we have a self-righteous faith?

What must we do to keep ourselves from the stronghold of self-righteousness?

(8-12) What did Jesus mean in vs 14 when he said "For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted"?

For Further Study: Jesus expands on why the Self Righteous mindset of the Pharisees was so wrong in John 8:1-11.

VIDEO TEACHING

But I don't judge! It is easy to say that. But I would ask you if you do these two things.

Do you play the comparison game?

Luke 18:11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector.

Do you do good works for all the wrong reasons?

Luke 18:12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

Do you try to take on God's role as a judge?

Matthew 7:1-2 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be

measured to you.

The Truth of the Gospel leaves us no room for self-righteousness.