

Rev. Scott Deneen
Pastor to Youth and Families

The Have's and the Have Not's

When we think of the “have’s” and the “have not’s,” we normally think in terms of the material/physical – money, clothing, homes, cars. However, Jesus tells a story about some people who think they are “have’s” (when in fact they are not) and people who are “not have’s” and yet receive all they need. Listen...

And [Jesus] told this parable to certain ones who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, and the other a tax-gatherer. The Pharisee stood and was praying thus to himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax-gatherer. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' But the tax-gatherer, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted."

Jesus is always hardest on people like me – Pastor types, religious people – because we are the most prone to pride. Pride is trusting in self rather than God. The Pharisee in the story is very much like a pastor to God’s people – he studies, memorizes, and teaches God’s Word, he lives religiously before the people, and he *appears* to be godly. But he is very proud of himself. His pride, however, is his downfall, because it’s not the sins we avoid or the good we do that endear us to God, it’s Jesus.

The tax collector/sinner approaches God without any merit of his own. He basically says to God, “I don’t have anything to offer you, therefore, any blessing/forgiveness you give me must be a gift.” He is definitely a “have not” when it comes to spiritual capital. Yet his humble and needy expression is exactly what God requires – the admission that we NEED someone to save us because we cannot save ourselves.

In other words, the sinner/tax collector trusts in God to save him whereas the Pharisee/proud man trusts in himself and his ‘good’ works to save himself. Jesus says that the proud man is not justified (made right with God) but the sinner is (because God gives him the righteousness he needs as a gift).

What are you trusting in to make you right with God? Is it the good things you do? Is it the terrible sins you avoid? Is it the fact that you’re friendly & nice? A regular church attender? Tither? Whatever it is, if it is not Jesus, then it is self-righteousness rather than Jesus-righteousness. However, when we humble ourselves and admit that we desperately need Jesus to save us, then He will give us everything we need to be made right with God. Why not receive that gift today?!

My hope is that you are living in, and enjoying, the forgiveness God offers in Christ!

Pastor Scott

Upcoming Youth Events

Imagebearers

Sundays 6:00 - 7:30pm
1st - 5th grade

Youth Group

Sundays 6:00 - 7:30pm
Middle & High School



Thank You...

Thank you for participating with us this year! It has been a **GREAT** season and we hope you and your child have enjoyed playing Basketball. Many people have been praying for you & your family - your coaches, the Basketball Committee, the SOAR Committee, our Pastors and the SOAR Prayer Partners within our congregation.

Next Saturday is the Season Finale. It's going to be an exciting time with Free Throw Contests for both age groups and a 3-point contest for the older age group. Each team will recite the verse they learned this season and parents, have your cameras ready for the trophy presentation!

Our guest speaker is Timothy Barton, Jr. Timothy was on the court as a referee this season. He and his wife, Caryann, live in Stanley and are enjoying their new son, Garrison. Timothy has plans to complete seminary in August, 2008, and is eager to go where God sends. You will surely be blessed through him.

Did we meet your expectations? At the finale you'll be given the opportunity to complete a League Evaluation. Your feedback is important to us and we hope you'll take a minute to tell us about your experience this season.

Thanks for being a part of FPC SOAR Sports!

John 15:12

[Jesus said]
 "My command is
 this: Love
 each other as
 I have loved
 you."

Basketball Finale
 This Saturday, Dec. 1st
 10:00am
 Wear Game Uniform
 No Snacks, please



You're Invited
 to the
 Children's Christmas Program
"Reminders of Christmas"
 Sunday, Dec. 16th
 6:30 pm
 FPC Sanctuary
 Hope to see you there!
 FPC Children's Ministry Team



Photos are compliments of James Guffey



Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

Morning Service
 8:30 Worship Service
 9:45 Sunday School
 11:00 Worship Service

Evening Service
 6:00 Care Groups
 Image Bearers
 Youth Group

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at
www.fpcstanley.org

Team Rosters
 Game Schedule
 Parent's Corner

2008 SOAR Sports

Youth Sports	Ages	Registration 10:30-12pm	Finale Weekend
Volleyball	10 - High School	Sat., Jan. 05, 2008	Sat., March 8, 2008
Soccer	4.5 - 11	Sat., March 15, 2008	Sat., May 24, 2007
Baseball	5 - 16	Sat., June 14, 2008	Sat., August 16, 2008
Basketball	6 - 13	Sat., Sept. 06, 2008	Sat., Nov. 15, 2008

- Adult Volleyball Open Gym runs January - April, Thursdays 7pm - 9pm
- Adult Men's & Co-Ed Softball teams play March - June
- Adult Volleyball team plays late August - October



Photo compliments of Reid Evans