

GROWING DEEPER:

Questions to dig deeper into this week's topic 

DOWN TO THE STUDS

How Good is Good Enough for God?

1. Do you personally know any Christians who behave worse than unbelievers in your life? Or do you have friends who don't believe in Christianity and who also live really moral lives even though they don't share our faith? Think of one or two of those people, specifically. What are the biggest contrasts in their behaviors?
2. How do you make sense of this paradox within our faith? Shouldn't Christians behave better than unbelievers? Why don't they sometimes?
3. Read Luke 18:18-30. What were the specific behaviors the man used in defense of his own righteousness? Are those still good standards for today, or are there better ones? Should these standards also apply to non-Christians? Why or why not?
4. Jesus was trying to expose the man's "horizontal righteousness" mistake. The Bible teaches that we only get into heaven because of Jesus' perfect virtue ("vertical righteousness"), not our own. What moral behaviors today are the ones you're most tempted to use to establish how "good" you are, in front of others and in front of God?
5. How can you let go of this "horizontal righteousness" burden, that leads only to guilt and shame? What self-righteous standard can you submit to Jesus, so that you can entrust your salvation to Him alone, and not yourself?
6. And then, in light of Christ's forgiveness and grace for you, what "horizontal" behaviors would be good for you to work to improve—not for heaven's sake, but in order to better love and serve the people around you?