



“Habits that Build Hope”
Creatures of Habit
Part 4

Habits set the trajectory of your life

*A habit of concealing blocks God and others
from working in your life*

“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. ¹¹The 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. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

Luke 18: 9-12

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³Those who listen to the word but do not do what it says are like people who look at their faces in a mirror ²⁴and, after looking at themselves, go away and immediately forget what they look like”

James 1:22-24

- *The Habit of Confession is the way to humility*
- *Being honest paves the way to Freedom!*

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.”

Luke 18:13-14

Those who humble themselves will be exalted

*“Those who conceal their sins do not
prosper,
but those who confess and renounce them
find mercy”*

Proverbs 28:13

The tax collector confesses at a distance

The Pharisee was focused on others

The tax collector was focused on himself and his personal relationship with God

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective”.

James 5:16

To confess sin to God

- Is to acknowledge to God that I have caused harm

When we confess to one another

- It is acknowledging our works or actions caused harm

- *To Develop a healthy Habit of Confession*
- *Consider writing a letter*
- *Consider asking God or someone you love if there is any way that you have caused them harm*
- *Pay close attention to feelings of shame or guilt*

*Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.*

*Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

*For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.*

*For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah*

*I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;*

*I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.*

Psalm 32