



## Message Two – The Sinner’s Friend

### Announcements

- **God in the Mirror** – This is a great opportunity to lead others into life-giving relationships through a God in the Mirror small group beginning March 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to lead a group, attend 401 Small Group Training | **Sunday, February 24th** | LCC Globe345 at 5pm-6:30pm. Register at [ChurchoftheKing.com/register](http://ChurchoftheKing.com/register).
- **Men’s Night Rescheduled** – February 19, 2014 at 7:00 pm | Little Creek Campus. Pastor Steve will encourage and challenge men through a powerful message about finding their role in reaching the community.

### Warm-up

Share a time when you passionately pursued a dream, goal or relationship. What sacrifices did you have to make during the pursuit?

### Word and Application

Today we are going to look more closely at how Jesus chases after people who are far away from him.

#### **Read Luke 18:9-14.**

In Jesus’ day, Pharisees were generally considered the good guys. They were respected by the common people. So when Jesus told this story, comparing a Pharisee’s righteousness to a tax collector’s prayer, He could not have picked a more vivid contrast.

Why do you think the Pharisee and the tax collector each prayed in the manner they did? To whom did each compare himself?

How can comparing ourselves to others lead to poor attitudes and harmful thinking? What are some practical ways we can resist making unhealthy comparisons to others?

Time and again, the Son of God reveals that he is a friend of sinners. Keeping this in mind, let’s reflect on three ways Jesus displays his love and friendship towards us.

#### **1. Jesus pursues me!**

**Read Luke 19:10.**

God initiated a relationship with each of us. He sent His son Jesus as the only means to restore a broken connection caused by sin. Even after we receive Jesus, He continues to pursue areas in our lives that are lost, such as a lost identity, lost understanding of God or lost freedom.

How does it make you feel knowing that you are being pursued whole-heartedly and relentlessly by the Son of God?

## **2. Jesus accepts me!**

**Read Matthew 9:9-13**, the calling of Matthew, the tax collector.

How do you think Matthew felt about having Jesus at his house for dinner?

Just as Jesus accepted you yet while you were a sinner, are there individuals in your life that you need to accept? Allow the Lord to reveal specific people to you.

## **3. Jesus challenges me!**

Jesus finds and accepts us where we are but He doesn't leave us there.

In John 5, Jesus heals a sick man at the pool of Bethesda. Read the conclusion of that story in **John 5:14**.

Why did Jesus issue that command to the healed man?

What has God been challenging you to do to grow in your Walk with Him?

### **Prayer**

Pray that all the members of your group realize that God is the Sinner's friend and His infinite mercy is available to everyone. Ask the Lord to reveal areas that are preventing you from walking in complete healing and freedom. Also, take time to ask for specific prayer requests from those in your small group.