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## Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 7, Bible Truth 2

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### The Case of the Rotten Innards *Luke 18:9-14*

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*(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)*

1. Sick people, sinful people, people eager to learn about God, all went to Jesus, and He satisfied them. "How wonderful, how amazing, Jesus is," they exclaimed. Many put their trust in Him. Here was the Savior they needed.
2. But there was another kind of people who went to Jesus: the Pharisees. They were the Bible teachers. They learned God's Ten Commandments and the hundreds of God's other laws, too. They added their own, little rules to God's laws, and told everyone to obey them, too.
3. These teachers didn't think they needed a Savior. "We're so good. We don't need God's forgiveness," they boasted. "We please God by obeying His laws and our little rules." They went to Jesus to see if He kept God's laws and their little rules, too... and get Him in trouble, if He didn't!
4. How wrong these Pharisees were to think they didn't need God's forgiveness! They could never please God by obeying God's laws, because they could never obey them perfectly.
5. Jesus knew the truth about these Pharisees. They had "rotten innards" --sinful hearts-- like everyone else. They broke God's laws, like everyone else. And instead of becoming good by trying hard to keep God's laws and all those little rules, they became proud of themselves.
6. So, Jesus told them a story that they might see their sin and seek after Him, the Savior. "One day, a Pharisee and a tax collector went to the Worship Place (Temple) to pray," Jesus told them.
7. "The Pharisee looked up to heaven and proudly prayed, 'God, thank You that I'm different from people like that tax collector over there. I don't do bad things. I am good, good, good. I keep all your laws and all the extra rules, too,' he boasted to God."
8. "Then, the tax collector prayed. He knew he had 'rotten innards' --a sinful heart-- and was sad about his sin. He looked down at his feet, beat his chest, and cried out to God, 'Have mercy on me! I have disobeyed You and Your good laws. Please, forgive my sins!'"
9. "The Pharisee left thinking God was pleased with him. But he was wrong. Only the tax collector went home right with God. God loves to forgive sinners --even very bad sinners-- who confess their sins to Him and humbly ask for His forgiveness," Jesus told the crowd.
10. What did the Pharisees think when they heard Jesus' story? Did they see that no one can ever do enough good things to be proud before God? Did they see their own sin and ask God to forgive them? I hope so! The Bible doesn't tell us.
11. But we DO know that later, two Pharisees --Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus-- DID turn away from their sins and ask God to forgive them. They put their trust in Jesus as their Savior. They were the very men who buried Jesus' body, after He died on the cross.
12. How happy those men were when Jesus rose from the dead on Day Three! Jesus really was the Savior, sent to forgive God's people's sin. Jesus kept God's laws perfectly and paid for their sins completely. Jesus can be our Savior, too, when we turn from our sins and put our trust in Him.