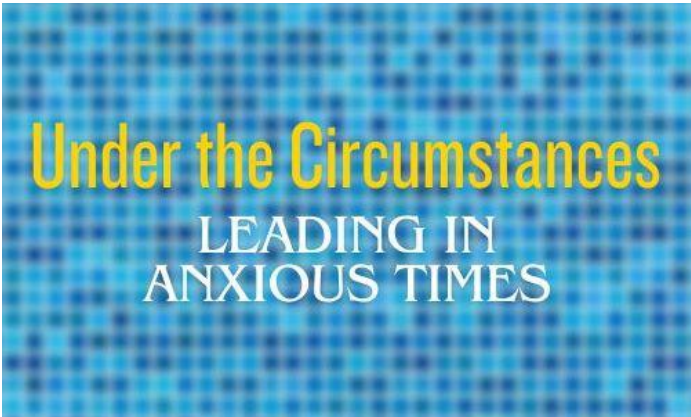


**Royal Redeemer
Going Deeper Guide**



Under the Circumstances
LEADING IN
ANXIOUS TIMES

Based on the sermon for October 6, 2024
Under the Circumstances: Leading in Anxious Times
The Balancing Act

**For personal reflection or for use as a devotion
with a CGS Community or family**

- **Begin by reflecting on/sharing a high and/or a low from your week**

- **CONNECT**

- When you're feeling anxious or stressed, how do you see that affecting the way you lead or interact with others?

- **GROW**

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.

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

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 18:9-14

- Share any words or phrases that speak into your life today.
- Jesus directs this parable toward those who were confident in their own righteousness and looked down on others. How might this mindset contribute to anxiety in leadership and relationships?
- What roles did Pharisees and tax collectors hold in society at the time? How would Jesus' audience have likely viewed the Pharisee and the tax collector in this parable?
- How does the religious context of self-righteousness and outward appearances reflect broader struggles people face in leadership today, especially during anxious times?
- Compare the Pharisee's prayer in verses 11-12 with the tax collector's prayer in verse 13. What do their prayers reveal about their hearts, and how might this speak to different approaches to leadership, especially in times of stress?
- How does the Pharisee's prideful attitude hinder his ability to lead effectively, and how does the tax collector's humility provide a model for leadership during anxious times?
- The tax collector recognizes his need for mercy from God. How does an acknowledgment of personal shortcomings and a dependence on God help leaders navigate anxious situations?

- o In verse 14, Jesus declares that the humble tax collector, not the Pharisee, is justified. How does this teaching challenge traditional views of strength and leadership, especially in moments of anxiety or uncertainty?
- o How might self-righteousness and the need to appear "in control" increase anxiety for leaders? How can embracing humility reduce that burden and lead to more authentic leadership?
- o How can this parable inform leaders who are responsible for guiding others during anxious or difficult times? What lessons about humility, grace, and self-awareness can be drawn from this passage?
- o In your own leadership roles, how can you adopt the posture of the tax collector, especially during times of anxiety or uncertainty? What steps can you take to lead with humility, acknowledging both your own need for God's guidance and the challenges others face?

- **SERVE** *others*

This month we are turning our attention to the Reach Out Lakota Thanksgiving Program. Each November, Reach Out Lakota provides eligible clients with the items needed to cook a complete traditional Thanksgiving meal— a turkey, stuffing, vegetables and more. This provides approx. 300 families with the opportunity to give thanks while sharing a wonderful meal with their families. The best way to support this program is by making a financial contribution. If you would like to help us support this organization, you can give during the service on Sunday or on ChurchCenter under the "[give](#)" tab.

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing**