

“Behold, a sower went out to sow.”  
– Matthew 13:3





# The Process of Self-Examination

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?” (2 Cor. 13:5)

# Importance of Self-Examination

- “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.” (Jam. 1:22-25)
- “If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.” (Jam. 1:26)

# The Work of the Holy Spirit

- “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment...” (Jn. 16:8)
- “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.” (Ps. 139:23-24)


# When to examine ourselves?

- Occasions
- Daily
- Even before an action

A person with a backpack is walking away from the viewer on a long, narrow wooden bridge that stretches into the distance. The bridge is made of wooden planks and has a railing on the right side. The background shows a cityscape with buildings and trees under a dim, twilight sky. The water reflects the bridge and the person.

# Repentance





## Avoid... Excuses

- "The road to hell is paved with good intentions."  
(St. John Chrysostom)
- "It is not he who reproves and corrects his  
brother that does the hurt, but he who excuses  
himself." (St. Clement of Alexandria)

# Parable of the Great Supper

- “But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' 19 And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' 20 Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'” (LK. 14:18-20)
- “For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.” (Lk. 14:24)

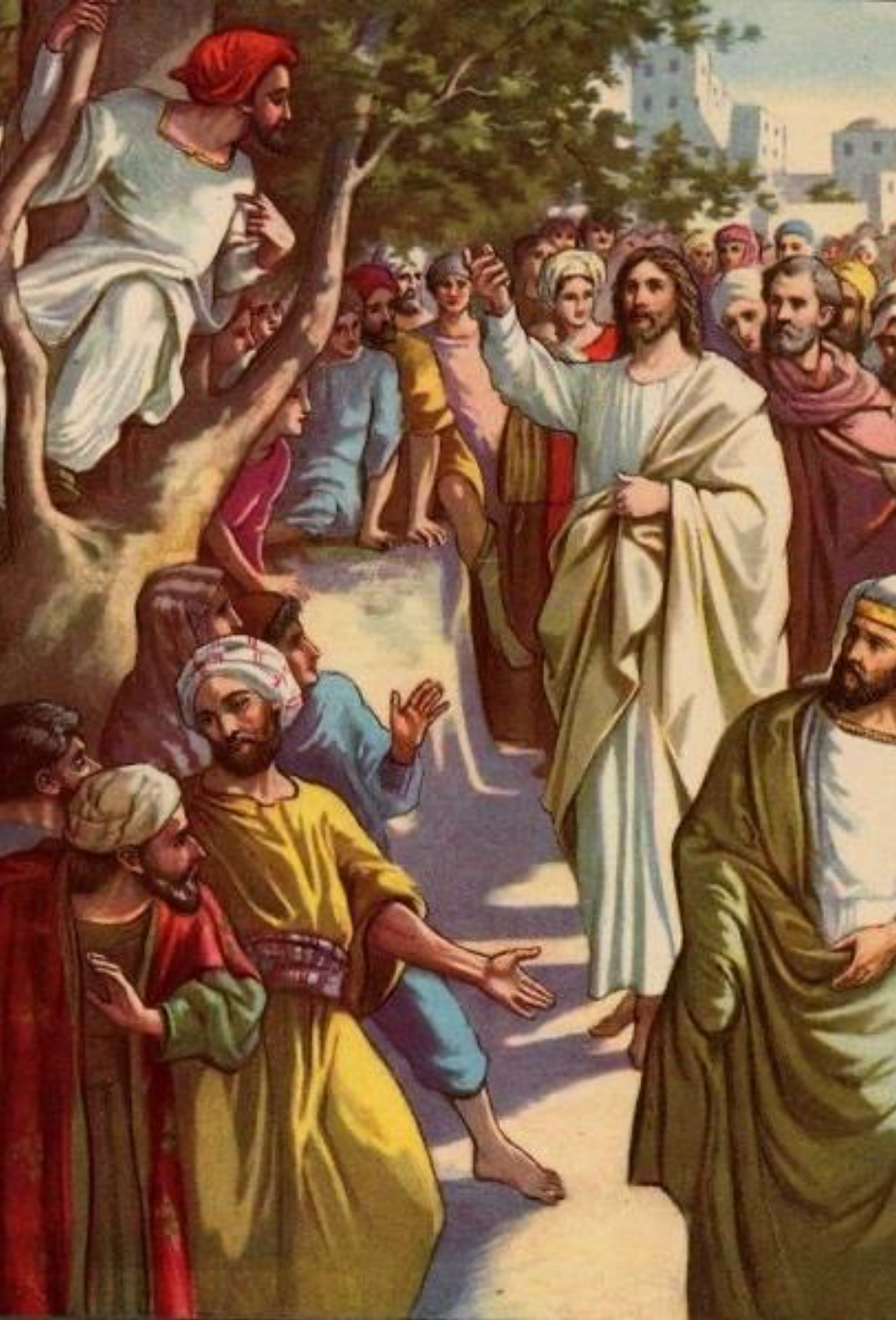


# Avoid... Shifting Blame

- EX: Adam and Eve
- Taking responsibility is crucial
- The Pharisee and Tax collector
- EX: David







# Avoid... Postponing

- "I will start tomorrow..."
- Zachaeus





# How to examine ourselves?

- Sins
- Sinful potential
  - **“Abstain from every form of evil.”** (1 Thes. 5:22)
  - EX: Lot
  - **“...for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds...”** (2 Pet. 2:8)
- Shortcomings
  - **“Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”** (Jam. 4:17)
  - EX: Parable of the Good Samaritan



# How to examine ourselves?

- Spiritual Cannon
- Examine Relationships
  - God
  - Yourself
  - Others





# Summary

- Importance of Self-Examination
- the trap of self-deception.
- The Work of the Holy Spirit
  - we must PRAY
- When to examine ourselves?
- Avoid the following...
  - Excuses
  - Shifting Blame
  - Postponing
- How to examine ourselves?
  - Sins, sinful potential, and shortcomings
  - Spiritual Cannon
  - Examine Relationships