

Year C - 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 18:9-14

The tax collector went home justified, not the Pharisee.



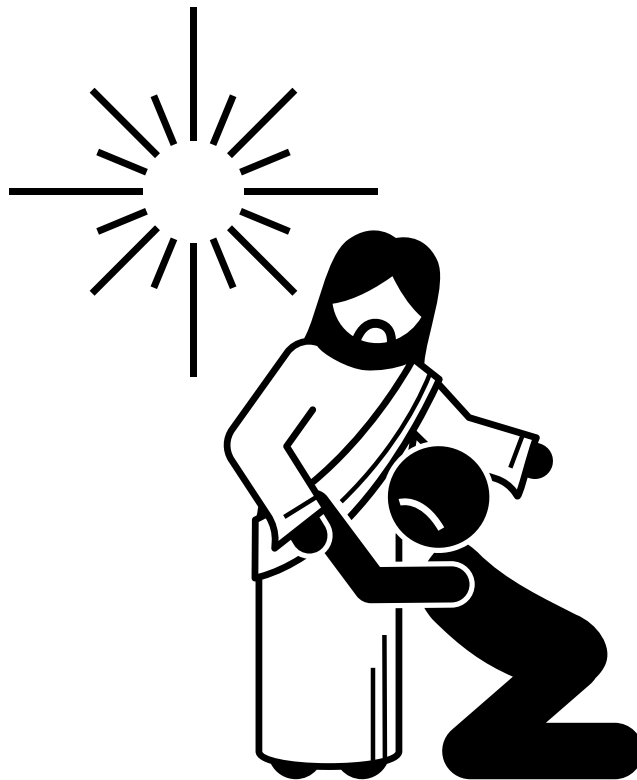
Jesus told a story to some people who thought they were better than others and who looked down on everyone else:

"Two men went into the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. "The Pharisee stood over by himself and prayed, 'God, I thank you that I am not greedy, dishonest, and unfaithful in marriage like other people. And I am really glad that I am not like that tax collector over there. I go without eating for two days a week, and I give you one tenth of all I earn.'

"The tax collector stood off at a distance and did not think he was good enough even to look up toward heaven. He was so sorry for what he had done that he pounded his chest and prayed,

'God, have pity on me! I am such a sinner.' "

Then Jesus said, "When the two men went home, it was the tax collector and not the Pharisee who was pleasing to God. If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself, you will be honoured."



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We don't have to pretend with God



- Introduction:**
- In this gospel there are two men praying. How does the Pharisee pray? Ask the children for their responses
 - And how does the tax collector pray? Ask the children and discuss their responses.
 - What is the difference between the two?
- Message:**
- In the time of Jesus, usually it was the Pharisee's who people looked up to because they were leaders of faith and the tax collectors were looked down upon because they collected taxes for the Romans who were ruling over the Jewish people at the time. But in this story that's turned around .
 - The Pharisee is making a big show about his prayer and compared himself to others thinking how great he was.
 - But the tax collector didn't do that, he spoke to God alone and didn't talk or think about anyone else, it was just about him and God.
 - When we come to God and spend time with him, whether that's in prayer or in Church or at home, we can be ourselves. We don't have to pretend, we don't need to compare ourselves to others and we don't have to boast about who we are and how good we are.
 - There is no one who knows us better than God does, he knows everything about us so when you spend time with God we can be like the tax collector, its just between you and God.
- Discussion:**
- What are some ways you can spend time with God? Listening to music about God, reading stories from the bible, writing letters to God, or sitting peacefully and thinking about God.
 - What do you like to do to spend time with God?
 - What do you like to think about when you do spend time with God.

