

LK 18:9-14

Gospel

Jesus addressed this parable
to those who were convinced of their own righteousness
and despised everyone else.

"Two people went up to the temple area to pray;
one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector.

The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself,

'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity -
greedy, dishonest, adulterous - or even like this tax collector.

I fast twice a week,

and I pay tithes on my whole income.'

But the tax collector stood off at a distance
and would not even raise his eyes to heaven

but beat his breast and prayed,

'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.'

I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former;

for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,
and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."