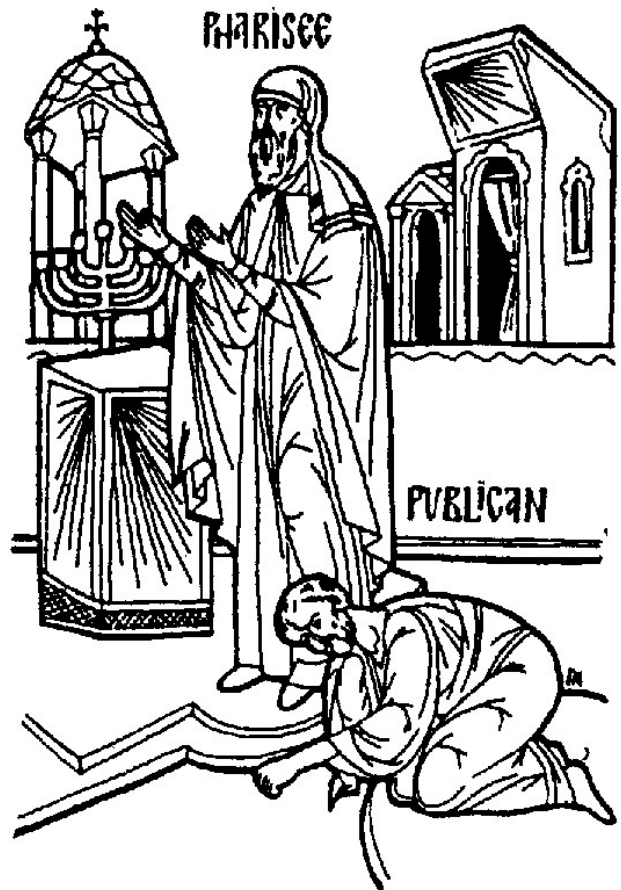


JESUS WANTS US TO BE HUMBLE

Jesus told this story. “Two men went to pray in the temple. One was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee was proud. He raised himself up tall when he prayed. He said, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men who cheat people and do wrong things. I do all the right things.’”

“The tax collector’s prayer was very different. He did not even look up to heaven, when he prayed. He was very lowly and humble, and he spoke quietly. He said, ‘God, be merciful, and forgiving, as I am a sinner.’”

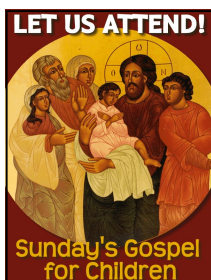
Jesus then told the lesson of the story. He said, “The Pharisee, the proud one, does not please God. Now, the tax collector--the one who was humble as he stood before God--he pleases God. God will raise up the humble person.”



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How many people are in the story Jesus told?
2. In the picture, one is standing and the other is doing a prostration. They show how they feel before God by their bodies. We do prostrations to show that we are not proud.
3. God wants us to do good, but not to brag about it. God wants us to be humble.
4. In the icon, draw a circle around the publican. The publican was humble and that pleased God.



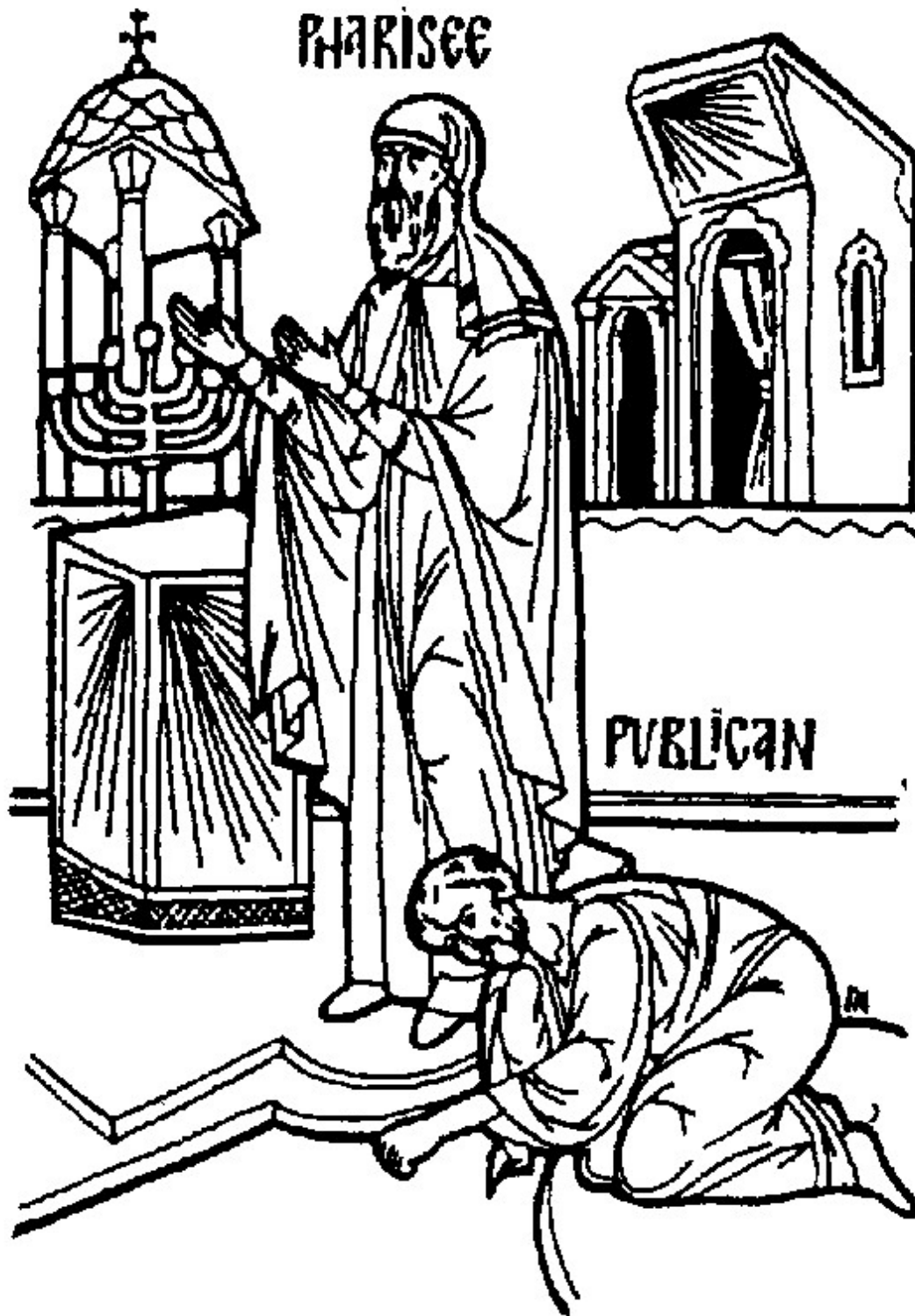
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JESUS TEACHES US TO BE HUMBLE

One day, our Lord Jesus Christ told this parable. (A parable is a story with a special meaning.) He wanted people to learn something from His story.

He told about two men who went to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. In those days, Pharisees were people who tried very hard to follow God's laws, but often did it just to show off or brag. And in those days, people did not like tax collectors because they often cheated people out of their money.

The Pharisee stood up and prayed proudly, "Thank you, God, that I'm not like other men who disobey You and hurt others. Thank you that I'm not like this tax collector. I fast like I am supposed to, and I give money to the temple like I should."

Meanwhile the tax collector was so sad that he could not even look up towards Heaven. He showed how sorry he was as he sadly prayed, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

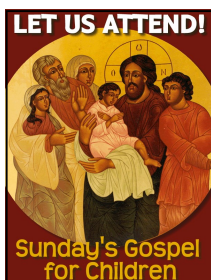
Our Lord Jesus said that the tax collector was forgiven, but the Pharisee was not. He reminded the people of the lesson in this story: People who are proud and brag, God will humble. But people who are humble, God will lift up.



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How many people are in the story Jesus told?
2. They show how they feel before God by their bodies. In the picture, one is standing and the other is doing a prostration. We do prostrations to show that we are not proud, but humble.
3. The standing man bragged about how good he was. Listen to this sentence: "The Pharisee was proud." What word means he bragged?
4. The second man spoke quietly and did not brag. Listen to this sentence: "He was very lowly and humble." What two words tell us he did not brag?
5. We should do good, but not brag about it. Which man is our example?



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TO BRAG, OR TO BE HUMBLE?

The Lord spoke this parable: “Two men went into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.’

“But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’

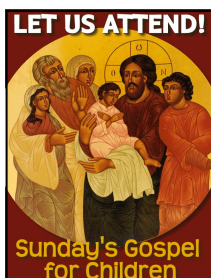
“I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”



Image courtesy of Teaching Pics

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Was the Pharisee following the rules for how God wanted his people to live?
2. Do you think the tax collector was following the rules for how God wanted his people to live?
3. What about you? Do you fast twice a week, and tithe on all that you get?
4. What did the Pharisee think following the rules did for him?
5. What did he really need in order for that to happen?
6. Did the tax collector have what the Pharisee thought he had? Why or why not?
7. What does this story tell us about Great Lent and fasting?



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TO BRAG, OR TO BE HUMBLE?

Characters: Narrator, Jesus, Pharisee, Tax Collector

Narrator: The Lord spoke this parable:

Jesus: Two men went into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself,

Pharisee: God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.

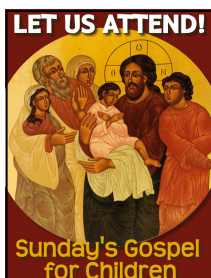
Jesus: But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying,

Tax Collector: God, be merciful to me a sinner!

Jesus: I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.



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BE MERCIFUL TO ME, A SINNER

The Lord spoke this parable: “Two men went into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.’

“But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’

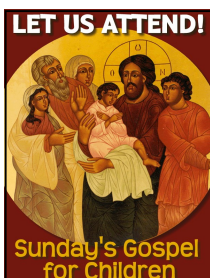
“I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”



Image courtesy of Teaching Pics

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Was the Pharisee following the rules for how God wanted his people to live?
2. Do you think the tax collector was following the rules for how God wanted his people to live?
3. What did the Pharisee think following the rules did for him?
4. What was the problem with the Pharisee's prayer: “I thank you that I am not like other people?”
5. Why is the tax collector's prayer more favorable to God?
6. What two things does the Pharisee do, that we do as well?
7. Do you think Lent is about following the fasting rules or about something else? Why? If something else, what is it about?



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THE PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN

The Lord spoke this parable: “Two men went into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.’

“But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’

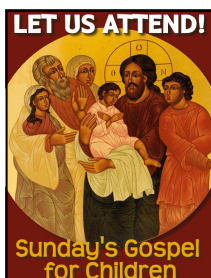
“I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”



Image courtesy of Teaching Pics

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What is the difference between the way the two men were praying?
2. What is the problem with the Pharisee's prayer: “I thank you that I am not like other people?”
3. Why is the tax collector's prayer more favorable to God?
4. Was the Pharisee living the way God wanted?
5. Was the tax collector?
6. What does this suggest about fasting?
7. What does this suggest about prayer?
8. What do you think about these ideas?



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