

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector



Did you know...

Pharisees were Jews who were very strict about keeping the rules.

Tax collectors in Jesus time were very unpopular.

They were Jews who collected money from their own people and give it to the Romans. Tax collectors often collected more than they were supposed to.

Light candle and read the story ... directly from Bible.

Read Luke 18:9-14

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

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

11 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.



12 I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.'

13 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.'



14 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."

Think about the story...

What do you think was the difference between the two prayers?

Do you think God was more pleased with the Pharisee or the Tax Collector? Why?

What does this story tell us about the way we should act?

What do you think Jesus is trying to tell us about God?

Jesus is telling us about the right way to pray?