



**October 27 2019 // Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time // Lectionary: 150 // Gospel LK 18:9-14**

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

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**Spiritual Reflection:** If you judge people, you have no time to love them. - Mother Teresa

**Spiritual Questions:**

1. How does the Pharisee's judgment prevent him from loving?
2. Does the Pharisee's religious acts help him grow spiritually?
3. What type of relationship to God does the Pharisee have?
4. What type of relationship to God does the tax collector have?
5. Why does God justify the tax collector over the Pharisee?