

## FIND THE RIGHT WORDS

To find something important that Jesus Christ taught us to do,

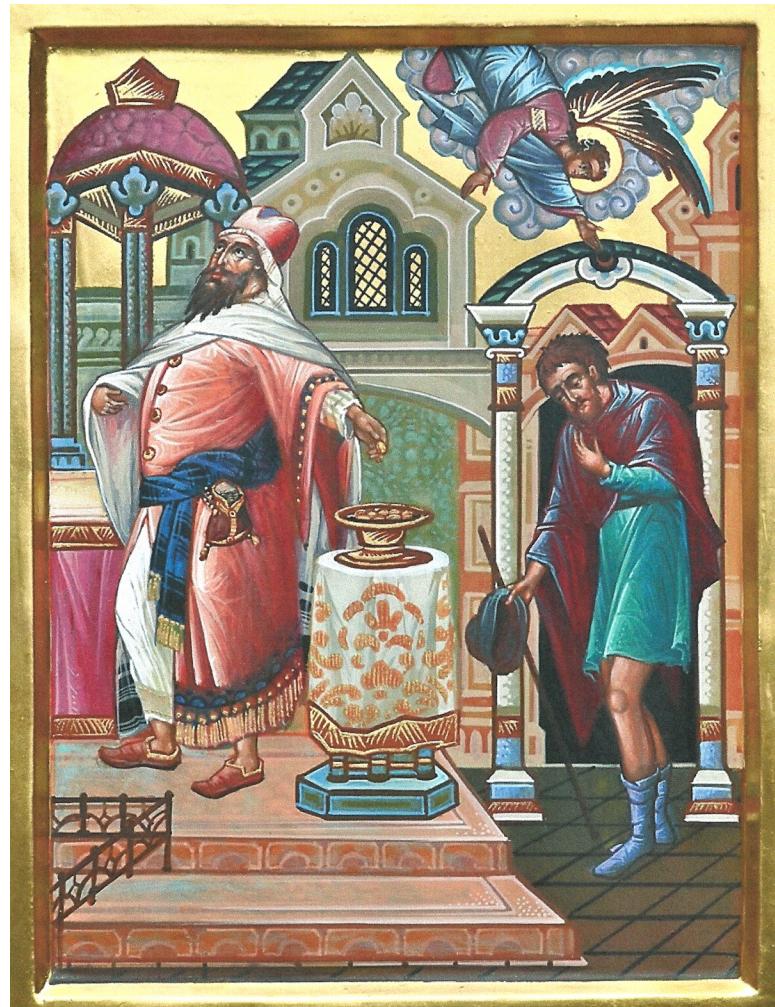
1. Cross out all the colors
2. Cross out all the vegetables
3. Cross out all the animals
4. Cross out all the trees

|          |         |          |
|----------|---------|----------|
| PINE     | BLUE    | CAT      |
| AS       | MAPLE   | YOURSELF |
| PEAS     | GREEN   | DOG      |
| ELM      | ROOSTER | YELLOW   |
| NEIGHBOR | CORN    | PINK     |
| CARROT   | SHEEP   | LETTUCE  |
| LOVE     | BLACK   | OAK      |
| YOUR     | POTATO  | LION     |
|          |         | RED      |

Put the remaining words in order on this line:

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## The Publican and the Pharisee



*“... everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,  
and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

(Gospel of St. Luke 18:14)

## The Parable of the Publican and the Pharisee

(from the Gospel of Luke 18:10-14)

Jesus told a **parable** to some people who were very proud of their good behavior but looked down on other people. A “parable” is a story that is told to teach a lesson about a spiritual truth.

Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a **Pharisee**. He was an upper class person who was well-known in the community. In Biblical times, Pharisees held high positions in the government and also in the Temple. This man did everything that was expected in his religion. He prayed. He fasted. He gave money to the Temple. These are very good things. But he was **overly proud** of his accomplishments.

The second man was a **Publican** who was a tax-collector. Tax-collectors were sometimes dishonest, so most people did not like them. The word “Publican” means “common citizen.” He was not a high official and was just an ordinary man in society. He **did not think he was special** in any way.

Standing in a prominent place in the Temple, **the Pharisee prayed: “God, I thank You that I am not like other people who commit sins**, especially like this tax collector.”

Standing in the back of the Temple and even afraid to look up toward heaven, **the Publican prayed: “God, be merciful to me a sinner!”**

Jesus said, “*I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.*”

What do Christ’s words mean?

To be **“justified”** means that God accepts a person into His Kingdom when the person asks for his sins to be forgiven.

A person who **“exalts himself”** thinks he is very great and expects other people to agree with his high opinion of himself. He does not admit that he does anything wrong.

The Publican knew that he had sins, and he admitted it. His prayer, **“God, be merciful to me a sinner,”** was a prayer asking for God’s forgiveness. He showed that he was sorry for his sins. Whoever asks God for His forgiveness receives it.

Feeling sorry for our mistakes (sins) is what is meant by the word **“repentance.”**

When we realize that we have sins and know that we must ask God to forgive them, that is **“humility.”** Christ said that it was **the Publican’s humility that justified him to God.**

The Pharisee did not realize that even though he did many good things, he had sins too. He looked down on other people and thought he was better than they were. He did not think it was wrong to do that.

The Pharisee sinned because he thought that he didn’t have sins or that his sins were not serious enough to ask for forgiveness.

The lesson is that God wants us to see ourselves as we really are. No person is as perfect as the Pharisee thought he was. Everyone makes mistakes. When we realize this, then we begin to have **humility.**

The Parable of the Publican and the Pharisee is read **as we get ready for Great Lent** when we examine our lives, feel sorry for our sins, and make an **effort to improve** our behavior.

During Great Lent, Orthodox persons take time to look inside ourselves, in order to see if what we do is what Christ taught.

We are **“justified”** when we ask God to forgive our sins, and **ask Him** to help us to not make the same mistakes again. That is why asking for God’s forgiveness is so important, **so that we can grow as spiritually healthy persons.**