

Gospel Reflection

Today's Gospel is a challenge for Stewardship Announcement Sunday! Here we have a man who tithes – and who isn't the "good guy" in the story! What's up with that? The problem, of course, is not his religious practices – they're all very laudable. The problem is his smug, superior attitude. Just a few weeks ago, the Gospel included this admonition, "When you have done all you have been commanded, say 'We are useless servants; we have done no more than our duty.'" The Pharisee must have been absent that Sunday!

The tax collector, on the other hand, had no illusions. His was an unpopular job that involved working for the despised, occupying Romans, and one strewn with many temptations. He came to the Lord without pretensions, knowing his sins and limitations. But the Gospel tells us that the Lord heard his prayer for mercy.

Sometimes we're humble like the tax collector; but sometimes we're the Pharisee, too. How often have we heard the person next to us going on at length about the charities they've given to recently, or the many hours they've selflessly volunteered at their school, church, or local food kitchen? How often has that person been us?

True humility – and good stewardship – comes from giving joyfully of our time, talent and treasure, without the need for notice or applause. God asks only that we give of ourselves willingly, not measuring our self-giving against that of others like the Pharisee, but with open and humble hearts that acknowledge that everything we have is from God. When we can do that consistently, developing a pattern of "giving back" without the expectation of recognition or praise, we will find that stewardship has become a way of life.

OLA's Stewardship Committee

KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

Luke 18:9-14

X D S T L A X E R F S U
U L A S N X U N I P L E
C X V E A G A M G D D M
Y T I N A M U H H I E Y
D U C O L L E C T O R U
E X S H E U R S E L N E
E E T S S F J S O M H A
R D E I F I T S U J U E
G H M D P C N S S U M G
L F P E N R O N N S B A
Y D L O H E A V E N L I
T H E E I M I Y S R E D
P N T D E S P I S E D S

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

RIGHTEOUSNESS	HUMANITY	HUMBLED
TEMPLE	HEAVEN	JUSTIFIED
PRAY	SINNER	DESPISED
TAX	MERCIFUL	GREEDY
COLLECTOR	EXALTS	DISHONEST

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
10/28/07*

*Luke 18:9-14
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.
Claremont, CA
www.olaclaremont.org

Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

The Word of God: *Luke 18: 9-14*

The Gospel according to Luke:

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..

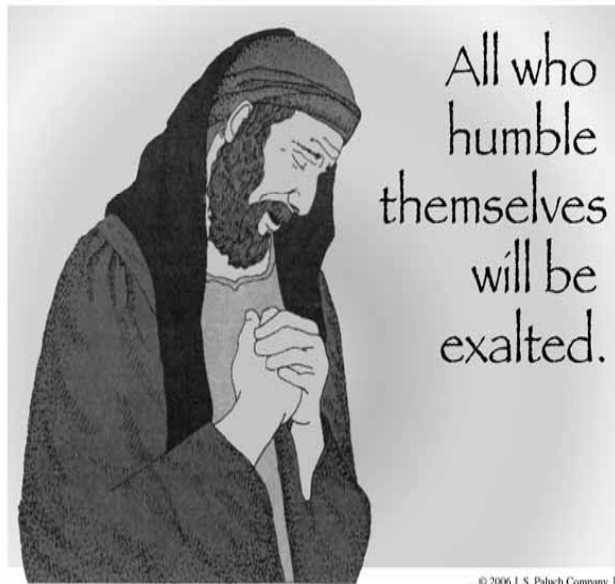
The **Pharisee** took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, 'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity—greedy dishonest and adulterous—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and I pay tithes on my whole income.'

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord



Gospel Glossary

Righteousness: Strict observance of moral or religious codes

Pharisee: Ancient Jewish religious group that attempted to live in a constant state of purity

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- In what ways am I like the Pharisee?
- In what ways am I like the tax collector?
- Of what am I most proud? In what area of my life do I most need to learn humility?

Closing Prayer

Almighty Father,

Shield our minds from the distortions of pride and enlighten our desires with the beauty of truth.

Help us to become more aware of your loving designs. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time