



30th Sunday of Ordinary Time – 26th October 2025

On the surface, the parable in Luke's Gospel, which will be read this Sunday, seems to affirm the view that there are two kinds of people in this world: those who are like the Pharisee and those who are like the tax collector.

The message we are supposed to take away from this parable seems quite obvious. There are two kinds of people in this world: those who are humble like the tax collector, and those who are prideful, hypocritical, and judgmental like the Pharisee. Yet, perhaps we have patted ourselves on our backs... I am welcoming, I don't judge others. I am involved in church or in my community. I give my money to charity or do acts of service. However, aren't we doing the very same thing that the Pharisees are doing in Jesus' parable in the first place? So, this parable is not quite as straightforward or as easy to hear as we might have hoped.

While the Pharisees were not perfect and definitely made some mistakes, for the most part, they tried to do the best they could. They cared about their faith and they took it seriously.

Maybe the question we should be asking ourselves is not 'Which of the two people might we be?' but 'When do we see ourselves as the Pharisee and when do we see ourselves as the tax collector?'

As maybe, just maybe, there are not just two kinds of people in this world. Maybe there is just one type of person in this world: human. Maybe we are - as Martin Luther explained it - "simultaneously [both] sinner and saint." Yet always held in the grace of Our Lord.

God our Father, Your Son Jesus wants us to share your love with everyone. May the Holy Spirit help us to bring the light of your love to the whole world, so that all people may come to see Jesus as their friend and guide. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In addition, this week let us pray for:

- ◆ our leaders, that the Lord will illuminate them in the peace and wellbeing of the world;
- ◆ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning;
- ◆ all those affected by the ongoing war;
- ◆ a safe and relaxing half term break for us all.



The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds.
Ecclesiasticus 35