

# MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH JUNIOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

## The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

### Lesson 79



Read this story in  
the Bible:

**Luke 18 v 9-14**

Some people who listened to Jesus thought they were such good people that God would

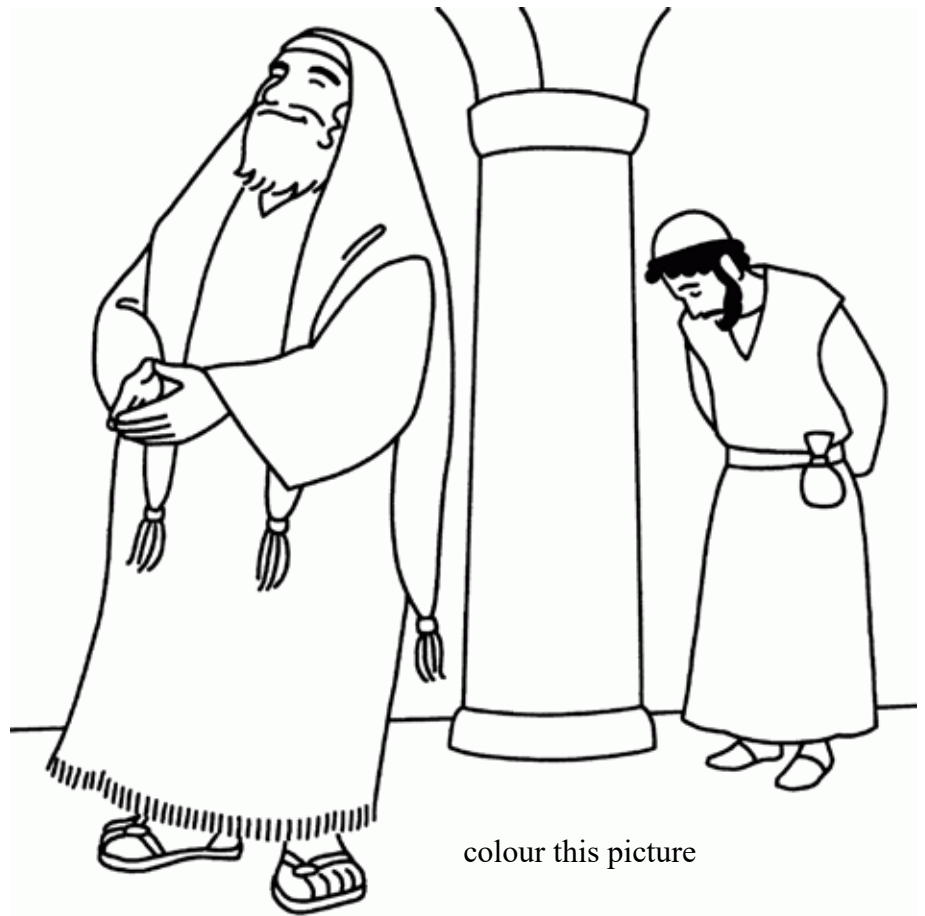
be pleased with them. They were very proud and thought they were much better than other people. So Jesus told this parable to explain that God is only really pleased with people who love Him in their heart.

Two men went to the temple, or church, to pray. The first was a Pharisee. He was a very religious man who kept all the rules. His prayer was all about himself. He told God how good he was.

The other man was a tax collector. Most tax collectors were greedy and took too much money from people to keep for themselves. This man realised what a sinful heart he had. He came to pray in the temple, but he felt so bad before a holy God that he couldn't even look up. He just asked God to be merciful to him. He was trusting in Jesus to put him right.

Which prayer did God hear? Jesus said that God heard the prayer of the tax collector. He knew he needed God to put him right, so God gave him a clean heart. Sadly, God didn't listen to the Pharisee's prayer. His heart was so full of himself, he had no room for God.

When we come to God, we must realise how holy God is. We must understand that God sees our heart and knows we have done sinful things. We can ask Him to put us right because Jesus has died to take away our sin.



colour this picture

# The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

These two men went to pray.



Put a circle round any word that describes the Pharisee.

boastful

pleading

humble

respectful

selfish

stuck-up

proud

sorry

Who are you most like?

**A verse to memorise:**

“The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.” Psalm 34 v 18 (NKJV)