

# The Pharisee and Tax Collector



Read Luke 18 v 9-14.

Jesus told this parable to a particular group of people: see verse 9.

- 1) What were they like? .....
- 2) How would you describe the attitude of the Pharisee towards other people?  
.....

Tax collectors were usually corrupt and greedy ('extortioners').

- 3) The Pharisee compared himself with the worst people he could think of.

Why did he do this? .....

- 4) How is this tax collector different to the Pharisee? .....



- 5) Was he interested in what other people were like? .....

Now read verse 14 again. 'Justified' = put right with God. 'Exalted' = lifted up. 'Abased' = brought down.

- 6) Which of the two men's prayers was heard? .....

- 7) What will happen to a person who exalts (thinks a lot of) himself? .....

Think of how you approach God. Do you lift yourself up and think you are important, or do you humble yourself before a holy God?

## A matter of the heart

Jesus was teaching that when we pray He is interested in our heart ♥, not our position in life. Take a look at the Pharisee's prayer in v 11-12.

Who is his prayer all about? .....

How many times does he mention 'I' ? .....

Does he actually ask for anything? .....

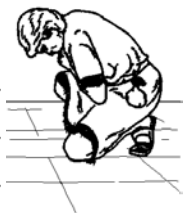
He was full of ..... in his heart.



Now check out the tax collector's prayer in verse 13. How many words did he use? .....

What did he think of himself? .....

What did he think of God? .....



## A TEST

Who are you most like? When you pray, do you tell God how good YOU are, or all about what YOU have done?

To rightly approach God we need to think about what HE has done through Jesus Christ! That way we will keep humble.

