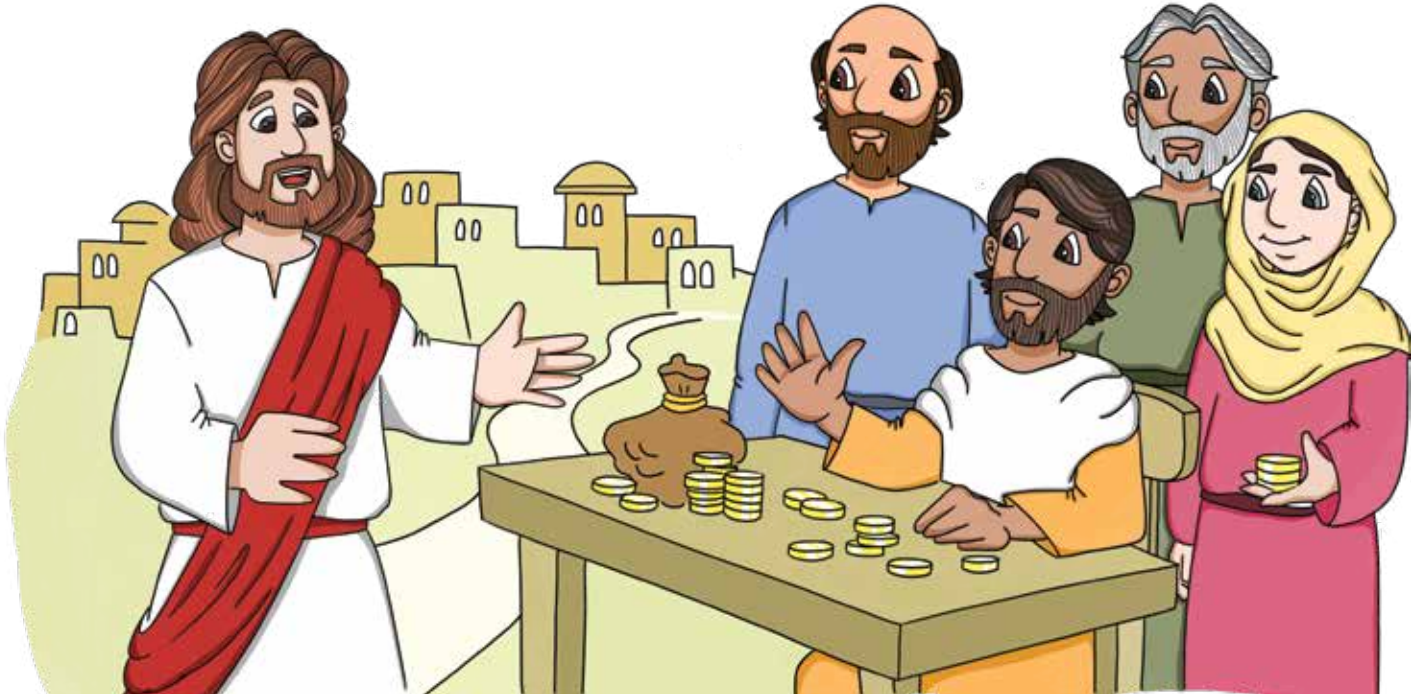




The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

God does not like it when people go around boasting about themselves. He loves and blesses those who are humble and ask for forgiveness.



Many people came to listen to Jesus. Among them were the Pharisees, who were scholars and leaders of the Jewish religion. The Pharisees were proud and thought they were better than other people.

One day Jesus told them a story of two men. One was a Pharisee and another, a tax collector. The Pharisee was a proud and boastful man. The tax collector was known to cheat people and so was not liked by anybody.

Once the Pharisee and the tax collector went to a temple. The Pharisee walked in with pride and prayed in a loud voice, "I thank you God that I am not greedy. I do not cheat people like the tax collector over there. I fast twice a week and give you a tenth of my income."

The tax collector stood at a distance with his head bowed. He beat his breast and prayed quietly, seeking God's mercy for his sins.



References: Matthew 5:46, 9:10, 21:31-32, Luke: 3:12-13, 7:29, 15:1, 18:11

Book: *On the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector* by Fr. Sergei Sveshnikov

Know Now: The Pharisee ("separatist") party emerged largely out of the group of scribes and sages. Their name comes from the Hebrew and Aramaic *parush* or *parushi*, which means "one who is separated." As historian Josephus noted, the Pharisees were considered the most expert and accurate expositors of Jewish law.

"I tell you," Jesus said to the people, "the tax collector and not the Pharisee is right before God. For everyone who makes himself great will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be made great."

Jesus wants children to learn the value of being humble and quiet rather than being boastful and noisy.

God does not like when people go around boasting about themselves. He loves and blesses those who are humble and ask for forgiveness.



But the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even raise his face to heaven, but beat on his breast and said, 'God, have pity on me, a sinner!'

Luke 18:13



Dear God, have pity on us for we are sinners. Forgive our sins and make us humble. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.

It is not wise to boast about yourself or about your car, house or money. Be humble. Your acceptance depends on how simple you are, not how powerful or rich you are.





If you are asked to select three important things from the following list, which ones will you pick? Circle your choices after going through the story of tax collector.

