

Continuing Presentations for Those in the Upper Atrium

Direct Aim: Share one of Jesus's moral parables that helps us know how to live our lives and remain in relationship with god.

Materials: This meditation and a candle if available to light when reading the scripture, Luke18: 9-14



Here is a different picture of our atrium and of the shelf holding all of the presentations of Jesus' moral teachings. In the past you have usually gone to this shelf to use practical life activities, but now you know this shelf holds the presentations about the True Vine and Jesus' guidance about how to remain in relationship with him on the Vine.

On the second shelf to the right you can see the presentation of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. The Pharisees were very strict observers of the Law laid out in

the Old Testament. Tax Collectors worked for the Romans who controlled Israel. The only way tax collectors were paid was by collecting more money from the people than was required by the Romans. They were not well liked.

Let's find out what Jesus has to say about these two men in this story or parable.

Light the candle. You may want to find Luke 18:9-14 in the Bible.

“Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt.”



“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.”



“The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘ God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’



“But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God be merciful to me, a sinner.’”



Jesus then said, 'I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other.'

Some questions to ponder:

What did you hear?

What do you notice about the posture of the two men praying?

What do you notice about the words of the two men?

Which prayer do you think changed the man's life?

Why do you think Jesus says the tax collector was justified or right with God and the Pharisee was not?

Is there a maxim that fits with this parable? How does the maxim fit?

Is there a prayer that you would like to say silently or aloud to God?

Extinguish the candle.

