Confession
Pastor Kevin Portillo
Luke 18:9-14: The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

He also 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, was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.

The **Temple**: The place where Heaven and Earth meet.

Compare and Contrast: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

a. Their position in the Temple:
The Pharisee: "stands by himself."
The tax collector: "standing far off."

b. Their body posture:
The Pharisee: Perhaps looking up toward heaven.
The tax collector: "face turned downward, away from heaven, and pounding his chest in remorse."

c. The content of their prayers
The Pharisee: full of words; Main subject = Me, myself, and I; fake thanksgiving (comparison).
The tax collector: short, succinct, and asking for God's mercy. We don't even know what he does wrong.

d. Their different way of life
The Pharisee: role model and exemplary life!
The tax collector: A sinner.

Tax Collectors were viewed as worse offenders than adulterers.

Who does Jesus say is "right with God"?

The Tax Collector

Luke 5:30-32

"The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, 'Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?' Jesus answered, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance.'"

Luke 7:29

Tax collectors responded positively to John the Baptist's ministry.

Luke 15:1-2

"Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'"

Luke 7:47

"Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little."

The Pharisee: *He is blind to his own need of mercy for his self-approved righteousness.*

The Tax Collector: *He recognizes his need for God's mercy and grace.*

Reflection Questions:

What do you need to confess?
How can you practice humility and confession in your life?
What do you need to fast?

Confession of Sin

Pastor: For all our unfaithfulness and disobedience; for the pride, vanity, and hypocrisy of our lives…
All: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Pastor: For our self-pity and impatience, and our envy of those we think more fortunate than ourselves…
All: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Pastor: For our unrighteous anger, bitterness, and resentment; for all lies, gossip, and slander against our neighbors…
All: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Pastor: For our sexual impurity, our exploitation of other people, and our failure to give of ourselves in love…
All: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Pastor: For our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our intemperate pursuit of worldly goods and comforts…
All: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Pastor: For our dishonesty in daily life and work, our ingratitude for your gifts, and our failure to heed your call…
All: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Pastor: For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty…
All: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Pastor: For our wastefulness and misuse of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us…
All: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Pastor: For all false judgments, for prejudice and contempt for others, and for all uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors…
All: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Pastor: For our negligence in prayer and worship; for our presumption and abuse of your means of grace…
All: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Pastor: For seeking the praise of others rather than the approval of God…
All: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Pastor: For our failure to commend the faith that is in us…
All: **Lord, have mercy on us.**