

“Two Types of People”

by Kris Goorsky, Director of Christian Formation

Scripture Reading: Luke 18: 9-14 NRSV

⁹He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ 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. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³ 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!’ ¹⁴ 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.”

Discussion Questions:

1. What jumped out at you about this passage?
2. What’s something you’re really good at doing?
3. What’s something you wish you knew more about?
4. When was a time that you have been like the Pharisee?
5. When was a time that you have been like the Tax Collector?
6. How do the things we do well make us feel? And the things we do poorly?
7. In what ways could you be more kind to yourself? Would it make a difference in how you saw others?
8. What would it mean for you to be more humble in front of God?