



The Olive Shoots
St. Symeon Orthodox Church
February 9, 2014

✙The Publican and the Pharisee✙



"Rich men have turned poor and gone hungry,
but they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived
of any good thing" ~ Psalm 33

Saturday-Vespers at 6:00 PM

THIS IS A FAST-FREE WEEK!



Troparion of the week — Tone 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our suffering! / O Lord, our life, and our Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Kontakion Tone 4

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee! / Let us learn humility from the Publican's tears! / Let us cry to our Savior, / have mercy on us, / O only merciful One!

Today's Bible Verse:

“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

-Luke 18:14

What does this mean?

Those who live humble lives and do not try to show that they are better than others will be glorified by God, but to those who try to put themselves above others, God will shame them.

The Publican and the Pharisee

Jesus told this parable, a story to help teach a lesson- He told about two men who went to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee (a high Jewish member) and the other was a tax collector. In those days, Pharisees were people who tried very hard to follow God's laws, but often did it just to show off or brag. And in those days, people did not like tax collectors because they often cheated people out of their money. The Pharisee stood up and prayed proudly, "Thank you, God, that I'm not like other men who disobey You and hurt others. Thank you that I'm not like this tax collector. I fast like I am supposed to, and I give money to the temple like I should." Meanwhile the tax collector was so sad that he could not even look up towards Heaven. He showed how sorry he was as he sadly prayed, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." Our Lord Jesus said that the tax collector was forgiven, but the Pharisee was not. He reminded the people of the lesson in this story: People who are proud and brag, God will humble. But people who are humble, God will lift up.

Use the Story and Picture below to get the Answers!

1. How many people are in the story Jesus told?

2. They show how they feel before God by their bodies. In the picture, one is standing and the other is doing a prostration. Why do we prostrations?

3. The standing man bragged about how good he was. Listen to this sentence: "The Pharisee was proud." What word means he bragged?

4. The second man spoke quietly and did not brag. Listen to this sentence: "He was very lowly and humble." What two words tell us he did not brag?

5. We should do good, but not brag about it. Which man is our example?

