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The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Jesus told a parable (i.e. a story) to some people who thought they were better than others and who looked down on everyone else:

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considered to be a very sinful person. The Pharisee stood over by himself and prayed, 'God, I thank you that I am not greedy, dishonest, and unfaithful in marriage like other people. And I am really glad that I am not like that tax collector over there. I go without eating (i.e. he fasts) for two days a week, and I give one tenth of all I earn (to the church).'"

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"The tax collector stood off at a distance and did not think he

was good enough even to look up toward heaven. He was so sorry for what he had done that he pounded his chest and prayed, 'God, have pity on me! I am such a sinner.'"

"Then Jesus said, 'When the two men went home, it was the tax collector and not the Pharisee who was put right with God...'" (Luke 18:9-14, The Contemporary English Version).

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