



# Summer Blockbuster Reading Challenge

3 months—4 Gospels—Go!

## MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2022



### Take your Pulse

What is your favorite back to school memory?

Which is more difficult—extreme heat, or extreme cold—and why?

### Today's Reading

Luke Chapter 18

One theme throughout Luke's Gospel is the reversal of fortune. Those who seem unlikely are raised up to the Kingdom, those who seem well-off are suddenly humbled. A lot of this reversal happens around the theme of justification. A person who justifies his or her own self is more likely to be humbled and those who turn to God for only God can justify, they receive the reward. The Pharisee and tax collector praying in the temple exemplify this theme well. The Pharisee doesn't think he needs God, after all he has done all his own works. The tax collector turns to God for mercy, for there is nothing he can do but trust God's mercy. Jesus praises the prayer of the tax collector and points to this unlikely individual as an example for how we are to live our faith, humbly turning to God for mercy.



### Start the Thinking

Have you ever listed out all the things you do that qualify you as a "good person"? Start a list. Like the Pharisee in the temple, name all you do, all you give, all you volunteer, all the times you worship and pray. Now what happens when you realize none of that is what saves you, but only Jesus who offers you this gift: You are loved by God.



### Conversing with God

O Holy God, look at all I have named as examples of my "Good" life. See how well I follow your commands and obey your laws. Yet even with my long list, I cannot achieve your mercy and salvation on my own. Your mercy is yours to give. And you give not based on what I have done, but based on what Christ has done. Thank you Lord for your Son. Thank you for your mercy, for without it all my list is meaningless. In your holy name we pray. Amen



### Be blessed

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind always be at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand.