



# Friends of Jesus and Mary

## XXX Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Sirach 35, 12-17; 20-22; Palm 33; 2 Timothy 4, 6-8.16-18; Luke 18, 9-14*

### The Repentant Tax Collector - Humility

Jesus addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else. "Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, 'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity --greedy, dishonest, adulterous -- or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.' But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.' I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

#### Reflection

**Jesus teaches us with a parable (a story with a teaching).**

**Who were the Pharisees?** (They were the leaders of the Jewish people who were experts in the law of Moses; they thought they were better than others.) **Who were the tax collectors?** (They collected taxes for the Romans and often collected extra for themselves; they were hated by the Jewish people.) **How did the Pharisee pray?** (He thanked God that he was better than others.) **How did the tax collector pray?** (He humbly asked for forgiveness for his many sins.) **Which of the two do you think pleased God the most and why?** (The tax collector pleased God because he was humble; he knew he was a sinner and needed God's forgiveness.) **When we pray do we turn to God asking for forgiveness knowing that we need Him? Share. God is love and always loves us perfectly. But we do not always love God perfectly, nor do we always love our neighbor as we should. Let's ask the Holy Spirit to help us see how we can love better. Let's ask forgiveness for our lack of love. In this way, God will see us as His friend.**

**Activity**  
On the following page, write the words of the Pharisee and the publican. On the next page, cut and write a time you lacked love towards God and to your neighbor. Take to the altar and pray the following prayer.

#### Prayer

My God, have mercy on me a poor sinner. I am weak and do not always do what I should. Sometimes my words and deeds hurt other people. Help me to love and do good as Jesus did. Amen

#### Song:

You forgive me, Lifetree kids, <https://youtu.be/LO-2fm7IKcU>

**PPT:** <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1EIDWw8VsU2Vzrb5r4CR4sPbaOgrLP4r0/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=115268475267556305384&rtfpof=true&sd=true>





Friends of Jesus and Mary  
Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

**Write the prayer for the pharisee and the publican.**



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### A Contrite Heart

Instructions: cut and write a time you lacked in love to God and to your neighbor. Color and fold. Take to the altar and pray: *My God, have mercy on me a poor sinner. I am weak and do not always do what I should. Sometimes my words and deeds hurt other people. Help me to love and do good as Jesus did. Amen*

God, I ask forgiveness for not loving you as I should when I:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I also ask forgiveness because I did not love my neighbor as I should when I:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

God, I ask forgiveness for not loving you as I should when I:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I also ask forgiveness because I did not love my neighbor as I should when I:

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