



The Word @ Home

Pentecost 20
Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

The Point

God calls us to act with humility and avoid self-righteousness

Key Verse

“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.”

– Luke 18:14

Scripture Summaries

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

Selfish and Humble

Jesus tells a parable of two men who go to the temple to pray: a Pharisee and a tax collector who works against the Jews and for the oppressive empire. The Pharisee is full of pride about his own righteousness, showing disgust for sinners, specifically pointing out this tax collector. But the tax collector is humble and repentant and simply asks God for mercy. The parable ends with a twist: the sinner is accepted by God while the one who follows the rules is not.

First Reading: Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

The prophet acknowledges the people's sins against God and asks for mercy. God responds that their sins will be punished. The prophet again asks for mercy.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

The letter writer uses several metaphors from athletics to illustrate that he feels confident in his faithfulness in ministry and God's righteous judgment as his death approaches. The Lord remains by his side.

Seasons & Festivals

Today is the 20th Sunday after Pentecost. Green is used to indicate our growth in faith, and this season after Pentecost is a time in which we focus on the teachings and ministry of Christ. It is a time for growth and learning following the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

Discussion Starters

- If you are honest with yourself, do you relate more to the Pharisee or the tax collector? Why?
- Who appeared more religious: the Pharisee or the tax collector? Who did Jesus say would be exalted?
- What is one area in which you can work on being more humble?

Prayer of the Week

God, keep me humble and remind me to look at the heart of a person, not their appearance. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday

Read Luke 18:9-14 A Pharisee and a tax collector pray.
Think of one way that you can demonstrate humility at school, home, or work this week.
Share your idea.

Monday

Read 1 Peter 4:12-19 Some Christians suffer.
Some days it can be intimidating to demonstrate your faith. Talk about these situations and create a strategy for overcoming them.

Tuesday

Read 1 Peter 5:1-11 Tend God's flock.
Gather stuffed animals and think about what it means to tend God's flock as you read this text.

Wednesday

Read Matthew 21:28-32 Jesus tells a parable about two sons.
Act out this parable, then commit to doing one thing that you are not asked to do to help someone else.

Thursday

Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-11 Paul talks about affliction.
Share a difficult time in which you felt God's comfort.

Friday

Read 2 Peter 1:1-11 Peter teaches about being a Christian.
Peter lists ways to support your faith growth. Which one do you need to work on more diligently?

Saturday

Read John 8:39-47 Jesus is descended from Abraham.
Use the Internet or Bible resources to look at Jesus' family tree.



Blessing for the Week

Share this blessing while tracing a cross on each person's forehead or hand with their permission:
Jesus will raise you up.