

Catechism Lesson for Adults and Teens
Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee (Triodion Begins)

Publican and Pharisee

Read the Gospel Passage for this Sunday
Luke 18:9-14

Contextual Background:

-Today we begin the period of Triodion, which marks a preparation for our journey into Great Lent. We begin to start thinking of Lent by reading a parable about humility and repentance through the Publican.

-In this parable, we read about things that we SHOULD be doing in Lent but not bragging about: fast, tithe, and pray. These things all need to be done humbly, without boasting or feeling self-righteous. INSTEAD, when we fast, tithe, and pray, we should look and pray like the Publican who is humble before God, asking for his continued mercy, recognizing when we are falling short on.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think the Pharisee acted the way he did?
 - a. He was grateful to God
 - b. He was arrogantly self-righteous
 - c. He sincerely wanted to honor God
 - d. He wouldn't be real with others
 - e. He wouldn't be real with himself

2. Why do you think the tax collector acted the way he did?
 - a. He knew he had done something wrong
 - b. He wanted sympathy
 - c. He had a poor self-image
 - d. He was plea bargaining with God
 - e. He had hit rock bottom

3. Which character would you feel more comfortable being around: the Pharisee or the Publican? Why did you choose that person?
 - a. He is more spiritual
 - b. He is more honest
 - c. He is more like me
 - d. He is more like who I want to be
 - e. He could better understand me

4. How did the tax collector demonstrate healthy humility? In each of the following, which is closer to how you view yourself?
 - a. I make excuses for my faults or I take responsibility for my faults
 - b. I put myself down or I see myself like God does
 - c. I have a self-defeating attitude or I have a God-confident attitude
 - d. I'm a reject or I'm wanted

5. What group of people today would be...
 - a. The Pharisee
 - b. The Publican

6. When have you felt like...
 - a. The Pharisee
 - b. The Publican

7. Why do you think so many people confess their sins in bars rather than in churches? With whom do you share your problems?