

Reflection for the Week

The parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector

Prayer is a difficult subject but when we pray, honesty and humility are two essential requirements. None of us are perfect, as the text below reminds us, and there is nothing to be gained by trying to hide our true selves before God.

Luke 18: 9-14

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector

9 Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:

10 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. **11** The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. **12** I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income." **13** But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" **14** 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.'

*Grant us grace,
almighty Father,
so to pray as to deserve to be heard.*

Jane Austen