

## **Luke 18:9-14**

### **Sunday, October 26, 2025 - Meditation**

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: Two people went into Zion Episcopal Church on Sunday and, before the service, pulled down the kneeler to pray. One was a respected member of the church, rarely missed a Sunday, was a member of the vestry and pledged generously to the church every year. The other, in shoddy clothes, no one had seen before, and, unknown to anyone there, happened to be an ex-offender just released from Riverview Correctional Facility in Ogdensburg. The vestry member prayed this way: "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, cheaters, parasites, or like that stranger in the back of the church. Yes, God, I live an upright life, give my money to the church, always volunteer when called upon, devote my time to charitable causes." But the ex-offender, sitting in the last pew in the corner, who would not even presume to

partake of the eucharist, yet with silent tears prayed to God, "Be merciful to me, a sinner!"

And Jesus said, "I tell you, this person went from the church justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."