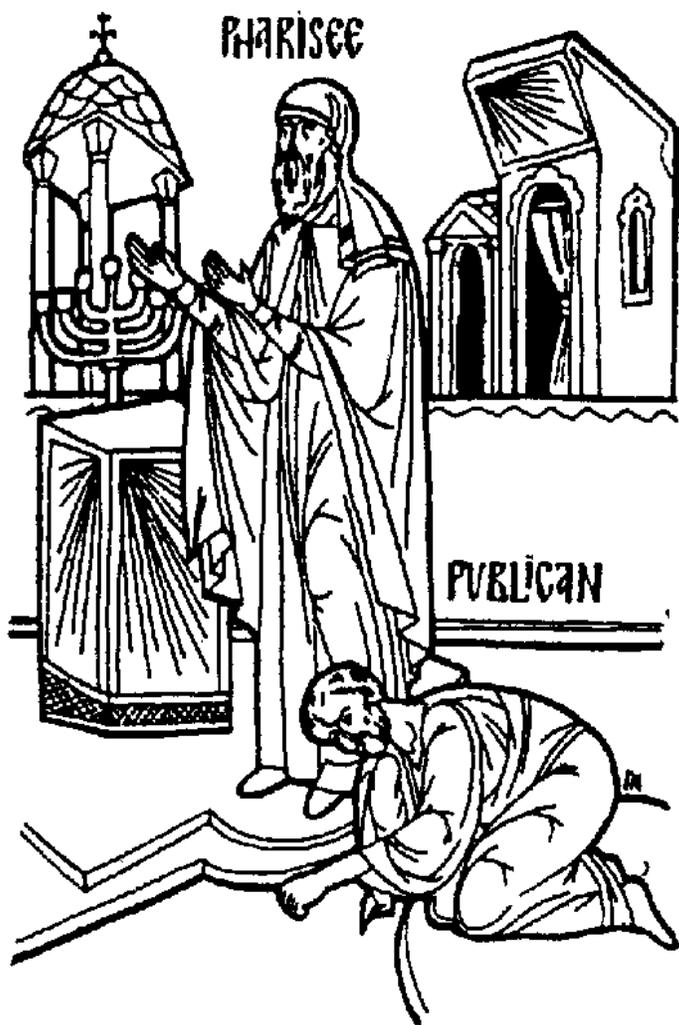


The Publican and the Pharisee

Luke 18:10-14



On the first Sunday of the Triodion during the Liturgy we hear the Parable of the Publican and the Pharisee. What if the Parable went this way?

A respected educator, who had made many contributions to a local school system and also served for many years as Sunday School supervisor in his parish, came to his local Orthodox Church one Sunday morning and prayed: "I thank you, Lord, for my pious parents who had the wisdom and strength to sacrifice for my education. I thank You for the opportunities that came along in my life. I haven't squandered my talents, like others, but used them to great advantage for myself and society. I am satisfied with my place in the community and thankful for my personal success."

On the same Sunday morning a less than honest used car salesman also came to Church and he prayed this way: "Lord, I am ashamed to come to Church. How can I even talk to You. You know that I have used every sales trick in the book. I have taken advantage of many people. If there is any hope for me it is because of Your mercy, not because of anything I can do. Forgive me and help me make a new beginning.

"I tell you," said Jesus, "this man (the salesman) was in the right with God when he went home, rather than the other!"

Jesus' words sometimes shocked pious people who thought that the Kingdom of Heaven belonged only to them. Jesus praises humble repentance and condemns self-righteous pride.

Read Luke 18:10-14

Some Questions to Answer:

To whom did Jesus tell this parable? (vs. 9)

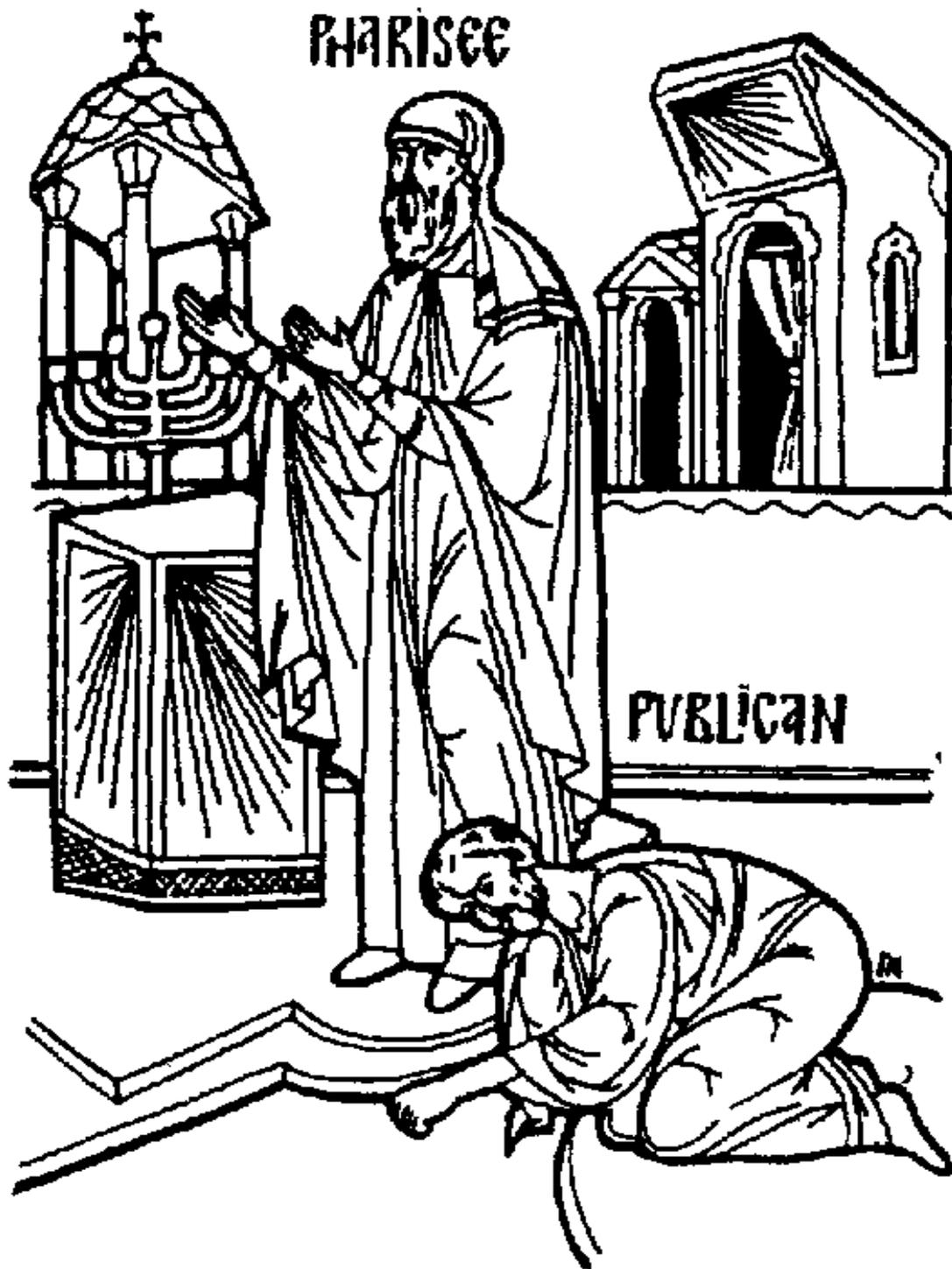
What did the Pharisee think was good about himself (vss. 11-12)?

What was the tax-collector's prayer (vs. 13)?

What did Jesus say about the contrasting examples of the tax collector and the Pharisee? (vs. 14b)

For everyone who _____ and everyone who _____.

The Publican and the Pharisee



The Pharisee was a leader in God's temple. In his prayer, he thanked God that he was not like some other people who lie or steal. He told God how wonderful he was because he gave money to the poor and fasted. The Publican, though, was sorry for the many bad things that he did and in his prayer he asked God to forgive him. Jesus said that we should act like the Publican, not the Pharisee. We should not think we are better than other people, and we should always ask God to have mercy on us and forgive us for doing bad things.

