

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 30th SUNDAY YEAR C 2022.

ON SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS:

Today's gospel is not so much about prayer as it is about **salvation**. **We do not save ourselves, we do not enter or attain the kingdom of heaven by telling ourselves how good we are. God alone is the one who makes us righteous and worthy according to our deeds and actions in his eyes.** We are not the source of our salvation

In the gospel today we are treated to two characters who went to pray in the temple. A Pharisee and a publican.

Pharisees were the lay custodian of the law and they were dedicated to keep it as perfect as possible. They were very strict in keeping it hence they looked down on anyone who didn't keep it to their expectations and standard. Whatever this unnamed Pharisee was saying about himself was very true, **strict in keeping the law, spiritual practice, keeping the sabbath, fasting and giving tithes (Lk.18:12-13).** I thank you lord am not like others, extortioners, unjust adulterers or even like this bloody tax collector (Lk.18:11). He was very proud of himself and **paraded his achievement proudly before God thus comparing himself with others, thus being better than them.** He forgot the fact that it is God who provides for all these and that salvation belong to him. Don't forget the fact that St. Paul was a Pharisee himself and this is what he followed strictly till later in life when he was converted and sought the mercy of God (**Rom.3:23**). **We all fall short of the mercy of God.**

The Pharisee had forgotten God's mercy, he was full of pride and self-righteousness rather than being grateful when we are self-righteous we are stating that we are the source of our salvation hence we end up in praying **to ourselves.**

How many times are we like the Pharisee as compared to the publican,

I thank you lord am a faithful catholic,unlike some people I know,I don't gossip like some people I know,I don't commit adultery unlike people I know, am honesty,kind unlike people I know.

I pray rosary every day,I return my envelopes in time,I studied in a Catholic institution,I am a choir member,CWA/CMA (Catholic women association,Catholic men association commissioned one for that matter.I give my tithe and mivothi na kuatiisya(Diocesan collection in African context)

Are these not parading our activities like the Pharisee!

The Tax collector didn't have anything to parade to his maker,and be proud of except his **simplicity and humility and pleaded for mercy and forgiveness.God be merciful to me a sinner(Lk.18:14).**

*Today's gospel is how we see ourselves and how God sees us.we need humility to see ourselves the way we are.The language of our time is the language of **self.,self determination,self realization,self fulfillment self-promotion and self-assertion** thus giving no chance to others except the self with unbalanced assertion which creates **pride.***

Humility which is promoted today in the gospel,is not a **weakness rather very strong quality.it gives us balance,honesty,realistic.**Humility tells us where we are **strong and where we are weak,in our responsibilities as parents,priests,teachers,students,youth and our obligation as believers.**it tell me there is room for improvement.the gifts and graces I have don't come from my **pocket but from God.**It tells me I have nothing without others in my life.It tells me am justified by God not myself.Christ is telling us to be humble as the tax collector in contrast to the Pharisee.**everyone who exalts himself will be humbled Lk.18:14).**pride was the **original sin of angels and Adam.Jesus humbled himself taking form of man but God exalted him.**

The tax collector left justified because he didn't **look around but looked within.He moved close to God in his humility.**

IN THE EVENINGS OF OUR LIFE WE WILL BE JUDGED NOT ON WHETHER WE WERE BETTER THAN OTHERS BUT ON THE BASIS OF HOW MUCH WE RESEMBLED CHRIST.

