

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 30th SUNDAY YEAR-C-2025.

Today's gospel is not so much about **prayer but rather 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 action in his eyes. we are not the source of our salvation it is God.

In gospel (Lk. 18:9-14) 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 Pharisee was saying about himself was very true, **strict in keeping the law, spiritual practice. keeping the sabbath. fasting and giving the tithes thank you lord am not like others, the extortioners, adulterers or even like this bloody tax collector (Lk 18:11).** He was very proud of himself and full of praise and **paraded his achievements proudly before God thus comparing himself with others not with Christ.** He forgot the fact that it is God who provides for all these and that salvation belongs to him. Paul before conversion belonged to this category and he was very strict till conversion and sought the mercy of God (Rom. 3:23) **we all fall short of the mercy God.**

The Pharisee in the temple had forgotten God's mercy, he was full of pride and self-righteousness rather than being grateful. When we are self-righteous obviously 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. **I am faithful catholic unlike some people I**

know,I go to Sunday masses,pray rosary,I don't gossip,I don't involve in fornication nor adultery,I return my envelopes,I contribute my mivothi Diocesan funds,I studied in a catholic school,I am a choir members I was commissioned as a **CWA/CMA member unlike some people I know!!!**Are these not parading our activities like the Pharisee

The tax collector didn't have anything to parade to his God and be proud of except **simplicity,humility and pleading for mercy and forgiveness.God be merciful to me a sinner(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 **self,self determination,realization,assertion,fulfillment, and self promotion.**thus giving no chance to others except the self with unbalanced assertion thus creating **pride.**Humility which is promoted today is not **weakness,rather strong quality.**It gives **balance,honesty and be realistic.**Humility tells us where we are strong and where we are weak. In our responsibilities as **parents,teachers,priests nuns student and also tells us of our obligation.**The gifts and talents comes from God not from our pockets.Christ is telling us to be humble like the tax collector.Everyone who exults himself will be humbled(LK18:14)This is the original sin of the bad angels.Jesus humbled himself and was exalted.The tax collector left the temple justified because he didn't look around to other but looked inside himself.He moved **closer to God in his humility.**

In the evenings of our lives we will be judged not on whether we were better than others but on the basis of how much we resembled christ.