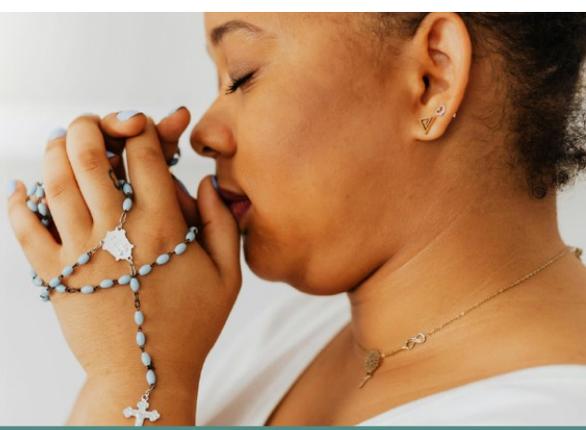


HUMBLE Faith



ICE-BREAKERS

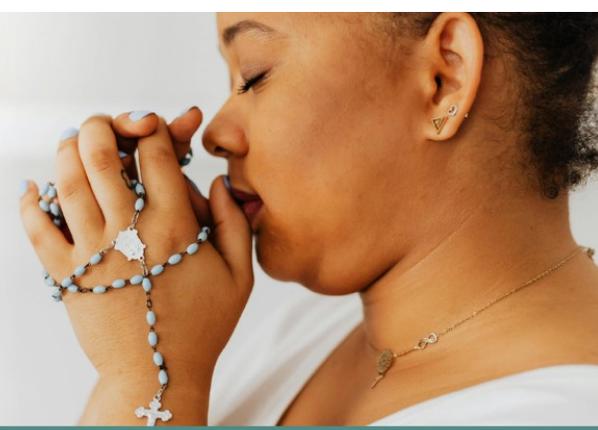
- 1 When have you caught yourself comparing your faith or goodness to someone else's?
- 2 If you were one of the people watching these two men pray, who would you have expected God to be more pleased with, and why?
- 3 What's the difference between confidence in your faith and spiritual pride, and how can we tell when we've crossed that line?
- 4 Why do you think short, humble prayers like the tax collector's can be more powerful than long, impressive prayers?

SERMON BASED

- 1 We often slip into comparison without realizing it. What are some subtle ways pride shows up in how we think about our faith, our church involvement, or our morality?
- 2 What do you think it means to "meet God" in prayer? How can humility open that door for us?
- 3 *"We tend to make a fuss about how visible our faith is in objects, but are less concerned about how visible our faith is in our lives."* How does this statement challenge the way we express our Christianity publicly and privately?

continue on back

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continue on back

LUKE

18: 9 - 14

sermon-based continued

- 4 In what areas of your spiritual life do you find yourself trying to earn God's approval or outdo others instead of resting in grace? How can you shift toward gratitude and trust instead?
- 5 When you leave worship, what kind of transformation do you hope for? How might humble faith, not comparison or pride, help you "walk away changed by grace"?

BEYOND THE TEXT

- 1 Consider stories like the prodigal son returning home (**Luke 15**), David's repentance in **Psalms 51**, or Mary's humble response to God's call in **Luke 1:38**. How does the tax collector's prayer, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner," echo other biblical moments where humility opens the way to God's grace?
- 2 "It's not about our work. It's always been God's grace." How does this truth connect with Paul's teaching in **Ephesians 2: 8 - 9** ("For by grace you have been saved through faith..."), and with **James 2**'s call to live out faith through works? How can we hold these two truths, grace and faithful living, in balance without falling into pride or passivity?
- 3 Jesus' statement, "All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted," appears in several parts of the Scripture. How does this theme of divine reversal, God lifting the lowly and humbling the proud, run throughout the biblical story (for example, in the Magnificat, the Beatitudes, or **Philippians 2: 5 - 11**)? What does this reveal about the character of God's kingdom and the kind of people God calls us to be?

FIRST united
methodist CHURCH

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH, 2025

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