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MADE FOR THE TRUTH

**gospel pearls**

## Humility opens the way to mercy

**GOSPEL PEARLS**

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Jesus addressed this parable  
to those who were convinced of their own righteousness  
and despised everyone else.  
"Two people went up to the temple area to pray;  
one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector.  
The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself,  
'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity --  
greedy, dishonest, adulterous -- or even like this tax collector.  
I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.'  
But the tax collector stood off at a distance  
and would not even raise his eyes to heaven  
but beat his breast and prayed,  
'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.'  
I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former;  
for whoever exalts himself will be humbled,  
and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."  
(Lk 18:9-14)