

Parents' Cheat Sheet - Car Qs

Jan. 21/18, Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

1. What is a publican? What is a pharisee?
 1. A publican is a tax collector. As mentioned last week (Jan. 14/18), when the Romans took over rule of Israel they established a taxation system that allowed private individuals to collect the taxes, which made it very easy to overtax and make a huge profit. Tax collectors were hated by the Jewish people because they were cooperators with the Romans, their conquerors, as well as liars and cheaters.
 2. A pharisee was a religious leader of the day. There were several ideological groups within Jewish society, including Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes.
2. How does the pharisee pray? How does the publican pray?
 1. “The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’” (Luke 18:11-12)
 1. The pharisee is very boastful in the way he prays, noting all the good things he does.
 2. Though his actions are commendable, his pride renders them moot: “[...] without a humble and repentant heart, these outward practises are worthless and lead only to pride and judgement of others. Note that he prays **with himself**, for God is absent where there is boasting.”¹
 2. “And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God be merciful to me a sinner!’”
 1. The publican is much more humble in the way he prays: “The **tax collector** shows by his posture an awareness of the state of his soul, standing far from the altar of sacrifice with eyes cast downward. His prayer, **God, be merciful to me a sinner**, is the foundation of the Jesus Prayer [...] as is the refrain ‘Lord have mercy’ that permeates Orthodox worship and personal prayer.”²
 3. The more humble we are in prayer, seeking forgiveness, the closer we become in inheriting Heaven.
3. What are some ways we can be humble?
 1. Being modest, respectful of others, being willing to apologize when we do something wrong, listen to others, acknowledge others have gifts and talents like you.
 2. Also check out <http://www.inspiremykids.com/2015/great-quotes-kids-humility-humble/> for more ideas.

¹ *Orthodox Study Bible*, note on Luke 18:11-12. p.1402.

² *Orthodox Study Bible*, note on Luke 18:13. p.1402.