

Homily

To further explain our reading this morning from the Gospel according to Luke I found these scriptures to be helpful. **BREATHE**

From the old Testament Proverbs 29:23: A man's pride will bring him low, But a humble spirit will obtain honor. **BREATHE**

And from the New Testament, James 4:10: Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." **BREATHE**

It is a simple story with an important meaning. **BREATHE**

If you praise yourself, you will be humbled; if you humble yourself, you will be praised. **BREATHE**

William Law's description of humility (written in 1729): "Humility does not consist in having a worse opinion of ourselves than we deserve, nor in abasing ourselves lower than we really are. Rather, as all virtue is founded in truth, so humility is founded in a true and just sense of our weakness, misery, and sin. He who rightly feels and lives in this sense of his condition lives in humility." **BREATHE** *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life, p. 105*

Ok so first, there is the Pharisee. **BREATHE**

He looks around and says he is not like other people: people who do bad things: thieves, adulterers or even that tax collector over in the corner. **BREATHE**

“Thank you God that I am not like that scumbag over there. I do what is right. He does evil.” **BREATHE**

The Pharisee has divide the world up into simple categories of good and bad, and clearly he sees the bad entirely in others. **BREATHE**

Lifting yourself up by tearing others down.
BREATHE

And there is the tax collector, standing in the corner begging for God's mercy. I am sure he heard the Pharisee but he doesn't retaliate. **BREATHE**

Rather than angrily point out the error the Pharisee's eye, he humbly attends to his own asking God, be merciful to me, asking for forgiveness, admitting before God his weaknesses, failings, and vices, He lifts himself up, not through insult of others, but through candidness and honest confession. Lord, have mercy on me.

BREATHE

Jesus tells us this story, so that we take the time to evaluate our lives to see if we're more like the Pharisee or the tax collector. **BREATHE**

How many of us are saying to ourselves “Thank you God that I am not like that Pharisee,” **BREATHE**

Well guess what whether we want to admit it or not, we do compare ourselves to one another and do as the Pharisee did by taking comfort from the fact that we are not as foolish,
not as misguided, as some other poor foolish, misguided persons? **BREATHE**

Like the Pharisee in Jesus' parable, we all find certain transgressions to be more offensive than all the rest.

BREATHE

It is a normal making judgements about ourselves and about others we can't help ourselves and if you think about it for its kinda of depressing. **BREATHE**

But the trouble is, when we only see the bad in other people, we become part of the problem, not part of the solution. We drive a wedge between ourselves and them.

BREATHE

Chances are, that what the Pharisee is saying and thinking is true. But that doesn't make it right to pushing others down or out. **BREATHE**

It is hard it is hard to avoid making judgements about other people. **BREATHE**

God doesn't only listen to our words, God listens to our lives. In other words, we should not only pray humble prayers; we also have to live humble lives. **BREATHE**

And to think not of how we might be better than some others, or of how some others might be worse than us, but instead think of who we are before God.

BREATHE

And it is one of things that demonstrates our need for the totally undeserved, the totally unearned, grace and love of God. **BREATHE**

For by grace you have been saved through faith.
BREATHE