

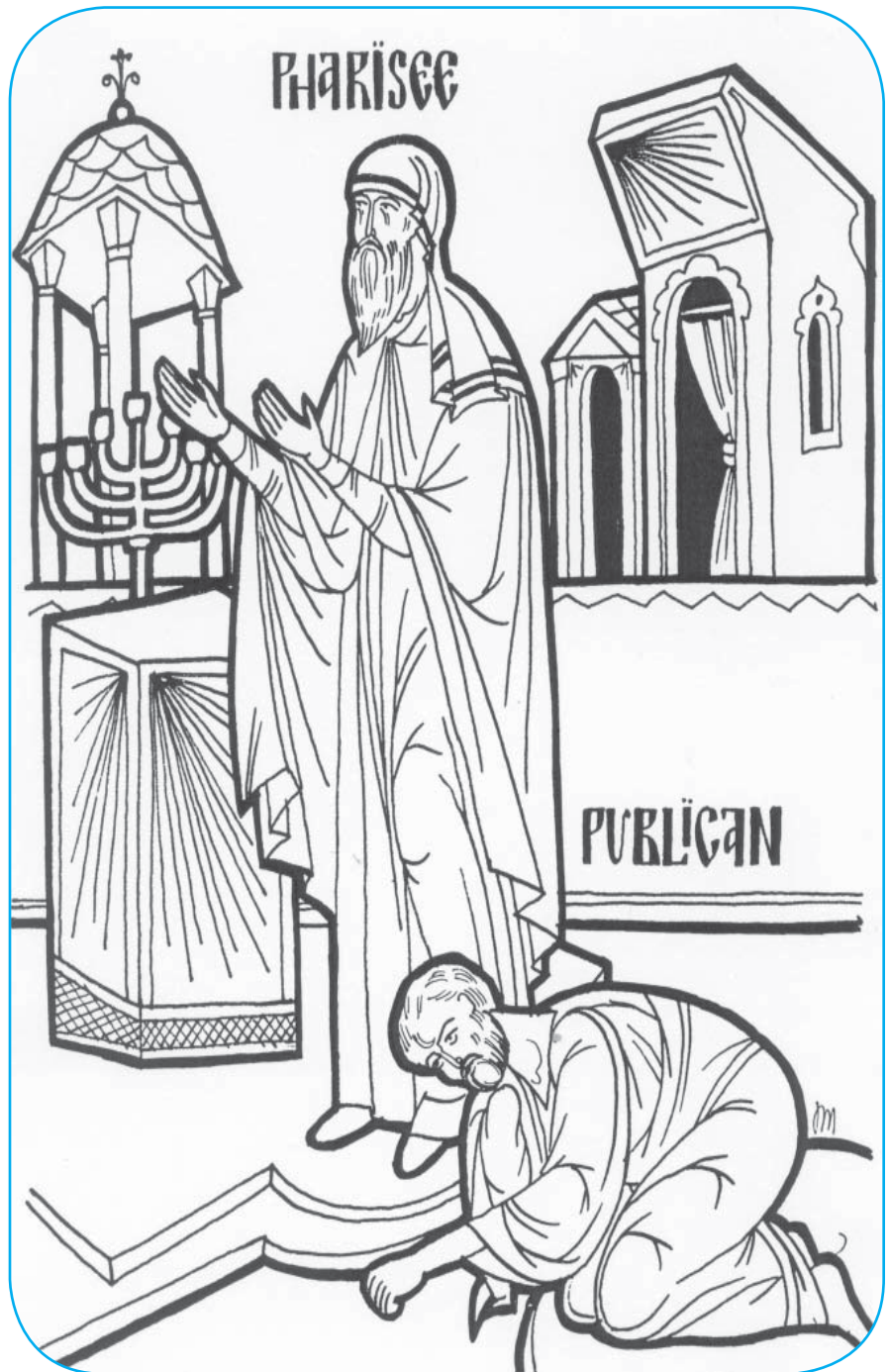
**Jesus told this story:**

“Two men went to pray in the temple. One was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. Pharisees thought they were better than anyone else. People thought tax collectors cheated when they collected the taxes.

The Pharisee was proud. He raised himself up tall when he prayed. He said, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men who are thieves, cheaters, and bullies. I fast as I should and I give money to the temple.’

The tax collector’s prayer was very different. He did not even look up to heaven, when he prayed. He was very lowly and humble, and he spoke quietly. He said, ‘God, be merciful, and forgiving, as I am a sinner.’

Jesus then told the lesson of the story. He said, “I tell you, the Pharisee, the proud one, does not please God. Now, the tax collector--the one who was lowly and humble and asked for God’s forgiveness--he is the one who pleases God. Everyone who is proud and raises himself up, God will make humble and low. And the one who is lowly and humble, God will raise up.”



1. People can talk with their bodies.
2. In the picture, both men are worshipping God. One is standing and the other is doing a prostration.
3. The standing man bragged about how good he was. Listen to this sentence: “The Pharisee was proud.” What word means he bragged about himself?
4. The second man was not proud. He showed this by a prostration.
5. We are not to think we are better than anyone else. God wants us to be like the second man.

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1. How many people are in the story Jesus told?
2. They show how they feel before God by their bodies. In the picture, one is standing and the other is doing a prostration. We do prostrations to show that we are not proud, but humble.
3. The standing man bragged about how good he was. Listen to this sentence: “The Pharisee was proud.” What word means he bragged?

4. The second man spoke quietly and did not brag. Listen to this sentence: “He was very lowly and humble.” What two words tell us he did not brag?
5. We are not to think we are better than anyone else. Which man does God want us to imitate, the one who is standing and proud, or the one that is lowly and humble?

## *The Lord spoke this parable:*

“Two men went into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.’

But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”



1. Take a minute to describe what you think an ideal member or your parish would be like. Ask your priest to describe what he thinks an ideal new member of your parish would be like.  
2. Do you think this ideal

member would say the publican's prayer or the Pharisee's prayer? Why?  
3. How would you feel if you heard this person saying the other prayer? Why would you feel that way?  
4. What does this gospel say

about the idea of an ideal member of a parish?  
5. What kind of prayer would you like to say? Why?  
6. What would your prayer tell God about who you are?

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1. How many days a week do we normally fast?
2. How often does the Pharisee fast?
3. Does he say why he fasts? Why do you think he does?
4. Why do you think we fast?
5. What prayer does the Publican say?
6. Why do you think he says this prayer?
7. Do we say this prayer regularly?
8. Why do you think we say it?
9. Do you think this prayer and fasting contradict each other or compliment each other? Why?

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1. Where was the Pharisee standing?
2. What does this tell us about him?
3. What was his prayer?
4. How is the way he is standing related to his prayer?
5. Why would standing by himself to pray be a negative thing to do?
6. Where is the Publican standing?
7. What does this tell us about him?
8. How is this related to his prayer?
9. Why is the way he is standing better than the way the Pharisee is standing?
10. What does this suggest about prayer? Is how or where we stand to pray important? Why or why not?