

Character Study for the Digital Age

Luke 18:9-14

⁹ [Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

1. The narcissistic Pharisee: “Lord, I am the *greatest* of all!”
2. The miserable Tax collector: “Lord, I am the *worst* of all!”
3. Narcissism and misery represent two different types of falsehood.
4. Humility: Relating to God, neighbor, and self with love and truth.