



WONDER IN ALL

Share the Wonder

*a reflection by
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In addition to our daily prayers to our Lord, Jesus Christ, we should include, “You have humbled me before your sacrifices; may I live up to your loving example for humanity.” In our gospel reading from Luke (18: 9–14), the Parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, this humble, poor, and much hated person praying in Synagogue, confesses his sins before God. He knows that the job he is forced to do, to be able to live, and perhaps support a family, is an affront to God. So, he humbles himself before God, confessing his sins, as we do in our Confession of Sin.

My fear about our generation is that many of us repeat this confession only by rote, not really thinking about what it means. Jesus asks us to think of those who are less fortunate than ourselves and reach out to assist them. Unfortunately, we can be so much like the Pharisee and consider those on the fringes of society to be not as worthy of God’s love.

However, Jesus asks us to listen for their voices, bringing God’s love into their lives; this unqualified love, when shared, defeats neglect on one side and fear on the other. When we identify where our privileged positions conflict with the oppressed people’s rights, we can see where a change and our assistance can make a truly great difference, not only in the lives of

those oppressed, but society as a whole.

Those who have wealth growing and falling by market percentage points can look at how some of that wealth can be used to uplift the lives of our neighbors, our brothers and sisters in Christ, who suffer under the weight of poverty. This is the message that Jesus gives us when He tells us to sell all we have and follow Him. The peace we share with the Lord blossoms when we recognize the worthiness of the least of these that Jesus speaks of.

Truthfully, we will not sell all our wealth to follow Jesus, but we can share our wealth with those in need. The pledge of our time, talents, and treasures as we await the coming of Advent and the birth of our beloved savior Jesus Christ, inspires us to avoid being the Pharisee in today’s Gospel. Let us share the wonder in all of God’s unconditional grace.



Russell began his effective spiritual journey as a Stephen Minister in 2003, devoting his life to prayer and sharing God’s healing touch. He is the author of [Prayer and Meditation Through the Holy Spirit](#), and shares God’s word and grace with others through prayer and a daily blog he writes on spiritual meditation.

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Proper 25

Luke 18:9-14



1. When have you recently experienced yourself or another acting by rote?
2. When have you experienced the weight of poverty?
3. When have you experienced the weight of wealth?
4. How can you connect the coming of Advent with your annual giving pledge?

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