

The *Expositor's Bible Commentary* says... "The modern reader will probably not feel the impact of this story to the extent a first-century reader would. We already think of the Pharisees as hypocrites and the tax collectors as those who received the grace of God. Jesus' original hearers would have thought, on the contrary, that it was the pious Pharisee who deserved acceptance by God."

-Who would be the modern parallels for you when thinking about the Pharisee and the tax collector?

The Pharisee demonstrated his lack of brokenness/humility by what Scott called "comparing" and "cataloging."

-Do you find yourself easily identifying the sin in others' lives while remaining blind to your own? Why do you think that is?

-While the Pharisee seems oblivious to his own sinfulness, he was well aware of his good deeds. Have you ever caught yourself "reading your resume" to someone else... maybe even reminding God Himself about all the good things that you have done? How does that compare with "self exaltation" in vs 14?

In stark contrast to the Pharisee is the tax collector. Look again at vs 13 and identify all the behaviors that communicate brokenness/humility before God.

-How can those behaviors translate into our relationship with God today?

-Is there any inconsistency between this text and the approach to God described in Hebrews 4:16? (especially where it talks about coming confidently/boldly)

How can we implement the challenge of James 4:10? What can we do to support each other with this challenge? Are there specific areas of your life that you know you struggle with when it comes to humility?

Similar issues are addressed in Philippians 2:3-11. Close with a prayer consideration of this text.