

At this point the two gentlemen parted company, and they moved in opposite directions. The proud man found only good in himself. The other man found only evil in himself. In both, and in both ALIKE - as God looks and sees men to be guilty or not guilty - there was only evil. Sin was prominent in both - ALIKE. However, the publican discovered and confessed the truth regarding himself, while the Pharisee either bluntly and blatantly failed to see his sins, or falsely refused to acknowledge them.

The crass error of the Pharisee was not in the form or the matter of his prayer. In the beginning his prayer was substantially a prayer of thanksgiving, and such a prayer is never out of place where God is concerned. Who is it that has not grounds to give perpetual praise and thanksgiving to God for all goodness? Actually, neither did the prayer of the Pharisee necessarily transgress the strict line of truth when he said; "O God, I give Thee thanks that I am not as the rest of men". In truth, he was different. In truth, he did not act as the other men around and about him. In truth, his interior disposition was in no way similar to the interior disposition of the publican.

At this point let us note well that the importance of our expressions or our conversations with God does not lie in the quality of the spoken words of the prayer that issues forth from our lips. The importance of our prayer lies entirely in the QUALITY OF THE INTERIOR DISPOSITIONS WHICH PREDOMINATE IN OUR HEARTS, AND THE HUMBLE STATE OF MIND THAT SPRINGS FORTH FROM THE TRUE AND PURE LOVE IN OUR HEARTS! So much do we love - so much do we speak the truth, and this is prayer!

If the Pharisee had spent his time in the Temple numbering and recounting the endless mercies God had shown him;

If the Pharisee had meditated on his blessings;

NO MAN CAN BOAST OF A GREATER PRIVILEGE!

DEAR YOUNG MAN, we the Monks of Christ The King Abbey, would like to welcome you here, and would very much like for you to become our Brother and a Member of our Family. No small thing, indeed! You have our prayers. GOD BLESS YOU!! And may He grant you the very great Grace of a TRULY MONASTIC VOCATION. God is asking you for the help that only you can give Him, in these our troubled days. Therefore, give it to Him without any hesitation. FEAR NOT! FEAR NOT!