“GOD, BE MERCIFUL TO ME, A SINNER!”

Luke 11:9–14

Key Verse: 11:13

1. Why did Jesus tell this parable, and what does this mean? (9)
2. In their society, how were a Pharisee and a tax collector different?
3. What was the Pharisee praying about, and what does his motive seem to be? (11,12; see verse 14) How might this be a danger for us as well?
4. Note how the tax collector’s prayer contrasts with the Pharisee’s (13). What does it show about his awareness of God and of himself? What might he have meant by “be merciful to me”?
5. What surprising thing did Jesus say about this? (14; cf. Mt21:31b) What did he mean by “justified”? What does it mean to “humble” oneself in prayer? How can we incorporate what we learn from Jesus’ parable into our own prayer life?