

April 23

*To Be Forgiven, You Must Be Humbled*

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Help us, God of our salvation, for the glory of your name.  
Deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name's sake – Psalm 79:9

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[Luke 18:9-14, Galilee] He spoke also this parable to certain people who were convinced of their own righteousness, and who despised all others. “Two men went up into the temple to pray; one was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed to himself like this: ‘God, I thank you, that I am not like the rest of men, extortioners, unrighteous, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far away,

God, be merciful  
to me, a sinner!

wouldn't even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

It happened when Jesus had finished these words, he departed from Galilee, and came into the borders of Judea beyond the Jordan. Great multitudes followed him, and he healed them there. [Matthew 19:1-2]

1. Are you convinced of your own righteousness? Do you look down on others? How so?
2. How have you sinned? How do you ask for forgiveness? How will you humble yourself?
3. Jesus, I judge others and give myself too much credit, please forgive me; today I will...