

HOPING

Our hearts are made for you, O God and we shall not rest until we find our home in you. (St Augustine)

We have turned to the text and then to life. Awakened by the Word we turn again towards the Lord

1. What do you now want to say to the Lord about what you have come to realise?
2. What hope has this text stirred in your heart? How would you bring it to the Lord of Mercy?

Closing Prayer:

We gather our prayer together, with these words of Psalm 50:

Lord, you love truth in the heart;
In the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.
Make me hear, rejoicing in gladness,
that the bones you have crushed may revive.
Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervor sustain me.



***Our deepest prayer is one that rises from the heart
in response to the realities of life.
(Michael Casey, OCSO, adapted.)***

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Hearing Happening Hoping

Journey with God's Word

The Year of Mercy

Luke 18: 9-14



The Word of God comes to us to awaken our hearts. We begin by praying: God our Father, source of all light, you have sent your Son into the world, to reveal yourself to all your children. Send your Spirit upon us now, that we may meet Jesus in the Word that comes from you. May we come to know him, may we come to love him more deeply and so be drawn closer to the happiness of your Kingdom. Amen.

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.'

But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man, rather than the other, went down to his home in right relationship with God; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

HEARING ~ Speak Lord, your servants are listening!

You have the words of eternal life!

*We read the passage 2-3 times. Reflect and share on **some** of the following:*

1. What words/phrases stand out for you in this passage? What do you like? What disturbs you?
2. To whom does Jesus tell this parable?
3. What does the Pharisee pray?
4. What does the Tax Collector pray?
5. How does Jesus see their prayers?



HAPPENING ~ Speak Lord, your servants are listening!

In the Light of the Word we look at our lives

*We read the passage again and reflect on **some** of the following:*

1. "I am not like other people..."
When do we explain who we are by saying we are not like someone or some group?
2. "I thank you... I fast... I give..."
What happens when our prayer is caught up only in our concerns?
3. "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" What enables us to welcome the mercy of God?

