

Trinity 21, Proper 25

Tax collector Pharisee

Link to Adam and Eve, covering ourselves up before the Lord.
Need for Nakedness before God
Humility

What is humility?

the right understanding of who you are before God.

Not humbless, Uriah Heep, self denigration, hate yourself, or call yourself names, or say you aren't worth anything.

- **Humility is that quality of a Christian that demonstrates a right relationship and position before God.**
- **Humus, earth: earthedness**

John the Baptist was humble: *not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals*. He knew who he was in relation to Jesus.

the tax gatherer here "*Lord have mercy on me a sinner*"? Jesus called him humble. He knew that before God, he was a sinner.

God does not want us to think too highly of ourselves. Instead, he wants us to think **soundly**. Whenever I start getting prideful and begin thinking that I know a lot about the Bible, or how big my website is, or whatever else I can boast about, the Lord reminds me of how utterly pompous I really am.

- Does God need me to carry out His will on this earth?
- Does He need me to answer tough questions for people?
- Does He need me to "get things done"?

He doesn't need me at all.

That is why it is really amazing that He uses me in spite of what I am inside.

Lord Jesus Christ who hast created and redemmed me, and has bnrought me unto that which now I am, theou knowest qhat thou wouldstt do with mne – do with me according to thy will, for the tender mercy's sake.

Healing

Laying our problems to the light for cure
every service should be a healing opportunity.

I suspect we've lost sight of this. I suppose that because so many Christian encounters in the past have been finger-wagging thou-shalt-nots, healing was often perceived as dependent on obeying rules.

As far as I can see from the Gospels, Jesus' healings were always and only at the request of the afflicted. The response required from us who are sick is merely to say "yes". How many psychiatrists does it take to change a light bulb? Only one, but the bulb has to want to change.

Of all the opportunities for healing, none is more powerful than the Eucharist at which Our Lord comes to us.

Healing

Coming to terms with ourselves, accepting ourselves as we are, being honest. Knowing that if we repent, we are forgiven.

Then we are freed of the burden of guilt
And can be fully human

St Irenaeus, a second century Bishop of Lyons, who said: 'God the Logos became what we are, in order that we may become what he himself is. ... The glory of God is a living person and the life of man is the vision of God.'

Humility, earthedness, holy communion