

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Luke 18:9-14

9. And Jesus spake this parable unto certain people in the crowd which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others, and who were of a conservative frame of mind and hateth those that did labour, or went to certain taverns, or purchased victuals in cheap markets:
10. And He did say, Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee clothed in fine linen with rather nice tassels and top-of-the-line phylacteries, and the other a publican, in rough hemp tunic with holes in all the wrong places which had not seen fullers bleach that month, and a soiled leather apron. Dead common. And the apostles did dig each other in the ribs for they did see in this an image of the owner of the tavern which had entertained them the last eve. Which was an certain one (let the reader understand.)
11. And Jesus said, the Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, thieves, evangelicals, or even as this publican here, the ale on whose breath I can smell from all this distance. An ungodly whiff, if you pardon my Egyptian. Moreover, I thank thee that I was not born a woman. Or Welsh, look you.
12. I fast twice in the week, on Mondays and Thursdays, and for a strange reason that hasn't yet been explained to me, eat only fish on Fridays, though I feast on the Sabbath, for is it not a day of rejoicing? O yes! And above all this I give tithes of all that I possess, though clearly only from my disposable income or else I should be much reduced to penury and I have already paid my taxes unto Caesar. You can't accuse me of not rendering now, can you.
13. And the publican, standing afar off, for his clothes did carry with them the scent of ale and perfumes of the women he sheltered, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast and thighs, the soles of his feet, and divers parts that are not listed in this book, saying, God be merciful to me, a sinner from the time I suckled at the breast.
14. And Jesus did look at the people and declared, I tell you, this man went down to his ale house justified by God rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased since pride cometh before a fall; and he that humbleth himself and thinketh himself no better than the lowest insect shall be exalted and be raised up to a higher seat at the marriage feast in the kingdom. And He did add, So I say unto you, cross not thy bridges until you come to them, and tread not where angels fear to tread; to steal a pin is a sin, and there's one about saving stitches but I can't remember it now. Verily, verily, He was much given to proverbs, and the disciples did nod sagely.