

Besides constancy, prayer requires humility. That is what our Lord invites us to reflect on in this Sunday's Gospel about the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector.

When we pray, do we speak from the height of our pride and will, or out of the depths of a humble and contrite heart? (Psalm 130:1). He who humbles himself will be exalted; *humility* is the foundation of prayer because humility is seeing things as they really are and man is really "a beggar before God" (St. Augustine, *Sermo*, 56, 6, 9). Only when we humbly acknowledge that we do not know how to pray as we ought are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer (Romans 8:26).

O Jesus, meek and humble of heart, *hear me*.

From the desire of being esteemed, *deliver me, O Jesus*.

From the desire of being loved, *deliver me, O Jesus*.

From the desire of being extolled, *deliver me, O Jesus*.

From the desire of being honored, *deliver me, O Jesus*.

From the desire of being praised, *deliver me, O Jesus*.

From the desire of being preferred to others, *deliver me, O Jesus*.

From the desire of being consulted, *deliver me, O Jesus*.

From the desire of being approved, *deliver me, O Jesus*.

From the fear of being humiliated, *deliver me, O Jesus*.

From the fear of being despised, *deliver me, O Jesus*.

From the fear of suffering rebukes, *deliver me, O Jesus*.

From the fear of being calumniated, *deliver me, O Jesus*.

From the fear of being forgotten, *deliver me, O Jesus*.

From the fear of being ridiculed, *deliver me, O Jesus*.

From the fear of being wronged, *deliver me, O Jesus*.

From the fear of being suspected, *deliver me, O Jesus*.

That others may be loved more than I, *Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it*.

That others may be esteemed more than I, *Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it*.

That, in the opinion of the world, others may increase and I may decrease, *Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it*.

That others may be chosen and I set aside, *Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it*.

That others may be praised and I go unnoticed, *Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it*.

That others may be preferred to me in everything, *Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it*.

That others may become holier than I, provided that I may become as holy as I should, *Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it*.

(Rafael Cardinal Merry del Val y Zulueta, *Litany of Humility*)

Father Frei