

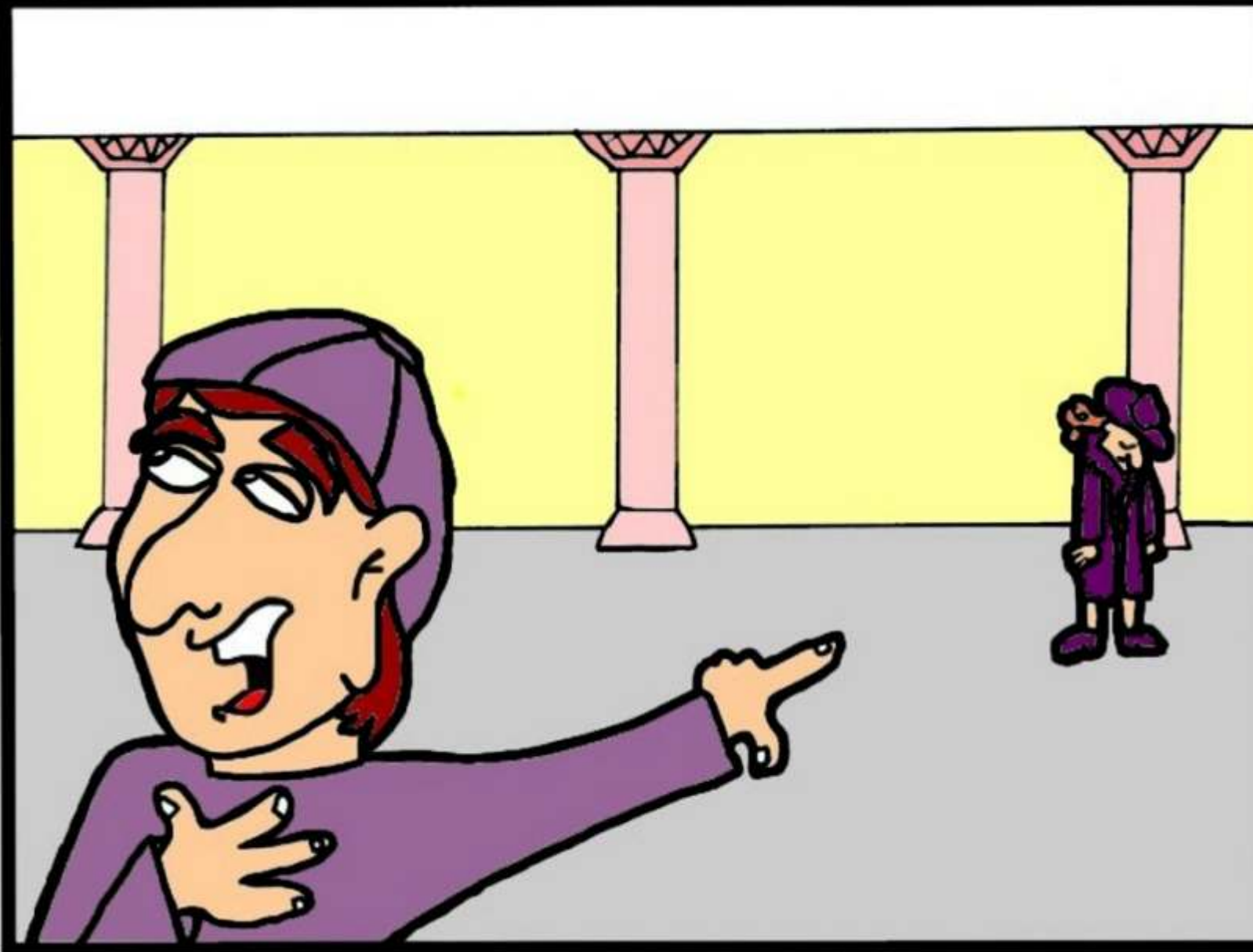
The Self- Righteous Pharisee

(Based on Luke 18:9-14)

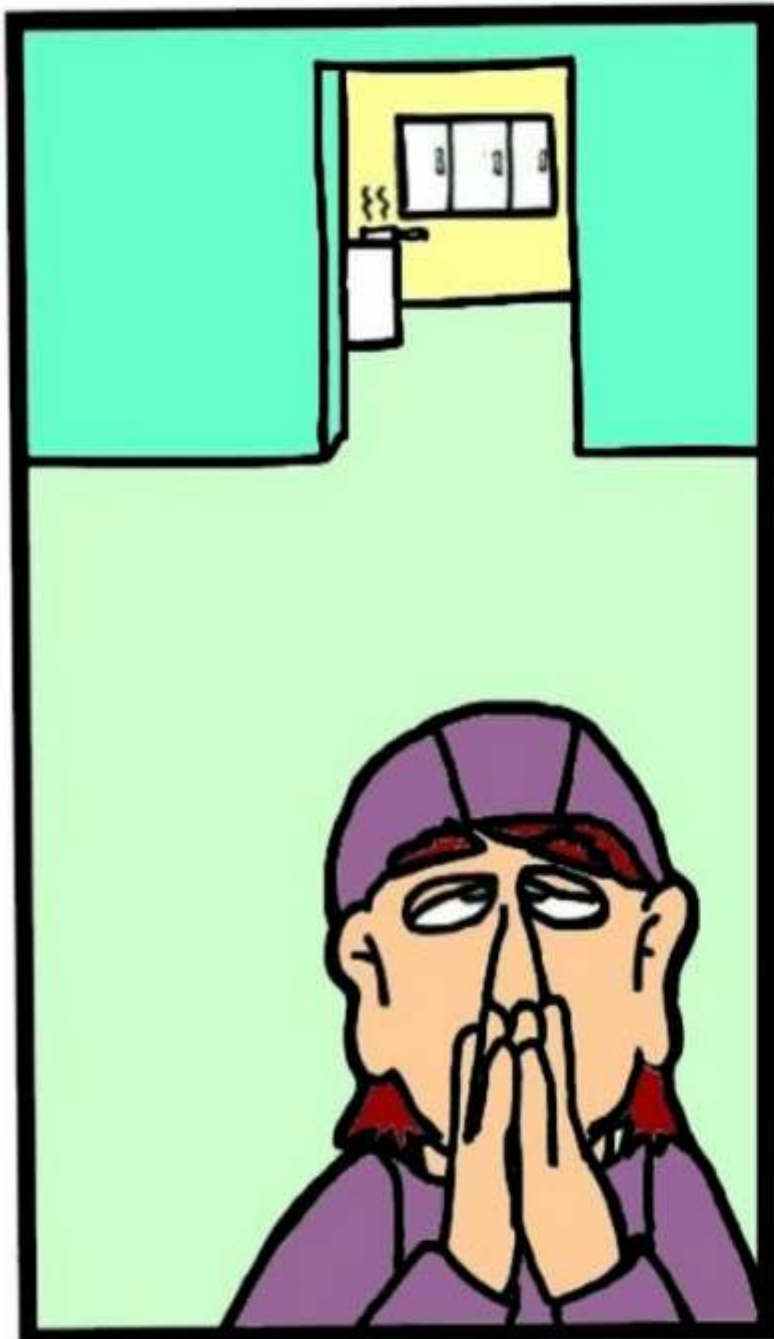
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One day Jesus told a story to people who believed that they were better than other people. "Two men went to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and the other man was a tax collector.



The Pharisee stood and prayed with himself, 'God I thank you that I am not like other people. I am not a cheater. I always do the right thing. I would never kiss someone else's wife. And especially thank you that I am not like this tax collector!'



Two times each week, instead of eating, I pray. And if anyone gives me a dollar, I always give ten cents of it to God.'



The tax collector was standing far away. He didn't think he was good enough to even look up to heaven when he prayed. He slapped his chest and prayed, 'God please have mercy on me. I have done lots of bad things.'"



Jesus said, "I tell you that the tax collector went home that day and everything was forgiven by God. The Pharisee wasn't forgiven. Everyone that thinks he is better than other people will be brought down. But the humble will be promoted and everyone will know how special they really are."



Lord, help me to never think of myself higher than others. We all need you SO much!