

# Killing With Words

We have been talking about the fifth commandment, "You shall not kill." We know to follow this commandment we must respect and protect human life in all that we say and do.

Sometimes people can "kill" other people by our words. Name calling, bragging and putting other people down can hurt others and make them feel really bad.

Today we are going to look at the way our words hurt or help others.

They heard the following **Gospel Story**

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

Jesus finished the story by saying, "I tell you that the tax collector, rather than the other, went home pleasing before God. For everyone who praises himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be praised."

**The Gospel was explained this way...**

Jesus is teaching us about humility. Humility or humbleness is a quality of being respectful of others. It is the opposite of bragging and thinking that you are better than everyone else. Rather than, "Me first," humility allows us to say, "No, you first, my friend."

Friendships and reputations are destroyed by gossip. Greed creates a gap between rich and poor. And wars can result over angry words. Humility is what is needed to live in peace and harmony with all persons. Humility helps to dissolve anger and heals old wounds. Humility allows us to see the dignity and worth of all God's people.