

August 26, 2022

Good Morning All,

~~For your information~~ We have had a great start to the new school year. We have 100 students (plus or minus as everyone gets settled in their new schools)! With this terrific enrollment, we have started a new policy for the Hall during the school day Monday -Friday from 7:30 to 5:00. Please check in at the front desk of the school for a volunteer/visitor pass so we are aware of who is on the campus. This is part of Safe Environment policies for the protection of the children. This policy applies to everyone. Thank you for helping us keep the smallest of our family safe! Please share with your groups and friends!

1. Today's Readings: [Friday of the Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time | USCCB](#)
2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: Next in our series on the Beatitudes is "Blessed are the merciful for they will receive mercy." We all want to receive mercy. What enables us to show mercy? Pope Francis shares his thoughts with us in this article.
3. Quotes of the Day: Fr. Jacques Philippe, from this book **8 Doors to the Kingdom** a recent Catholic book club selection hosted by Jan Heithaus

~"Nothing draws God's grace into our lives more than the humble, patient charity we practice toward others."

~" 'Father, forgive them, they don't know what they do.' Jesus' words...help us realize that human beings truly do not know what they are doing, and fail to comprehend the evil of which they are the authors."

~"God's forgiveness of us is limitless; ours should be too."

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

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Blessed Are the Merciful, for They Will Be Shown Mercy

by Pope Francis

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Today we will look at the fifth Beatitude, which says: “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy” (Mt ;5: 7). In this Beatitude there is a particularity: it is the only one in which the cause and the fruit of happiness coincide, mercy. Those who show mercy will find mercy, they will be accorded mercy.

This theme of the reciprocity of forgiveness is not present only in this Beatitude, but it is recurrent in the Gospel. And how could it be otherwise? Mercy is the very heart of God! Jesus says: “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven” (Lk ;6: 37). Always the same reciprocity. And the Letter of James affirms that “mercy triumphs over judgment” (2: 13).

But it is above all in the Lord’s Prayer that we pray: “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors” (Mt ;6: 12); and this question is the only one that is taken up again at the end: “For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins” (Mt ;6: 14-15; cf. ;Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2838).

There are two things that cannot be separated: forgiveness granted and forgiveness received. But many people find themselves difficulty, and are unable to forgive. Very often the harm suffered is so great that being able to forgive seems to be like scaling a very high mountain: an enormous effort, and one thinks, it can’t be done, it can’t be done. This fact of the reciprocity of mercy indicates that we need to turn the perspective around. By ourselves we are not able; it takes the grace of God, we must ask for it. Indeed, if the fifth Beatitude promises finding mercy and in the Lord’s Prayer we ask for the remission of sins, it means that we are essentially debtors and we need to find mercy!

We are all in debt. All of us. To God, Who is so generous, and to our brothers. Every person knows he is not the father or mother he or she should be, the husband or

wife, the brother or sister. We are all “in deficit” in life. And we are in need of mercy. We know that we too have done wrong, there is always something good that is missing, that we should have done.

But it is precisely this poverty of ours that becomes the force for forgiveness! We are debtors and if, as we heard at the beginning, we will be judged with the measure with which we measure others (cf. ;Lk ;6: 38), then it is best for us to extend the measure and remit debts, forgive. Every person should remember they need to forgive, they are in need of forgiveness, and they need patience; this is the secret of mercy: ;by forgiving, one is forgiven. Because God precedes us and He is the first to forgive us (cf. ;Rom ;5: 8). Receiving His forgiveness, we in turn become capable of forgiving. Thus one’s own misery and one’s own lack of justice become an opportunity to open oneself up to the kingdom of heaven, to a greater measure, the measure of God, Who is mercy.

Where does our mercy come from? Jesus told us: “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Lk ;6: 36). The more one welcomes the love of the Father, the more one loves (cf. ;CCC, 2842). Mercy is not one dimension among others, but rather it is at the centre of Christian life: there is no Christianity without mercy. If all our Christianity does not lead us to mercy, we have taken the wrong path, because mercy is the only true destination of every spiritual journey. It is one of the most beautiful fruits of charity (cf.;CCC, 1829).

I remember that this theme was chosen from the first Angelus that I had to say as Pope: mercy. And this has remained very much impressed on me, as a message that as Pope I should always have given, a message that must be given every day: mercy. I remember that day I also had the somewhat “shameless” attitude of advertising a book on mercy, that had just been published by Cardinal Kasper. And that day I felt so strongly that this is the message I must give, as Bishop of Rome: mercy, mercy, please, forgive.

The mercy of God is our liberation and our happiness. We live on mercy and we cannot afford to be without mercy: it is the air we breathe. We are too poor to set conditions, we need to forgive, because we need to be forgiven. Thank you!

Source: catholicculture.org