

## Monday, March 1, 2021

- **Readings of the day**
  - Daniel 9:3, 4b-10 *We have sinned and done wrong.*
  - Psalm 79 *Lord, do not deal with us as our sins deserve.*
  - Luke 6:36-38 *Forgive, and you will be forgiven.*

# Mercy

- **Reflection**

Mercy is who God is. It is love's other name. Mercy is forgiveness. God is more interested in our future than in our past. He takes past sins seriously but never as the last word. God wants each of us to become the best person he wills us to be and this requires conversion — a change of heart. Genuine mercy believes God's grace has the power to transform us. God does not owe us forgiveness. Nor does God's mercy license us to continue to sin — it demands a response to go and from now on sin no more (John 8:11). God's mercy motivates us to do better.

God's forgiveness is an easy thing to obtain. One needs only to ask. God forgives — he opens his loving arms and grants mercy. He gives love away. <https://sosf.org>

### Prayer

Almighty God, you love us, despite the sins we commit, but you also command us to admit our failures and repent. May we take our sins seriously so that we may not take your mercy for granted. Through Christ our Lord, AMEN

## Tuesday, March 2, 2021

- **Readings of the day**
  - Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, 27-28, 31 *Learn to do good; seek justice.*
  - Psalm 50 *To the upright I will show the saving power of God.*
  - Matthew 23:1-12 *The scribes and Pharisees do not practice what they teach.*



- **Reflection**

Humility is a greatly under-emphasized quality among humans. We don't know what it means. We don't know how to appreciate it. We don't know how to do it. And we're not all that sure we want to have it. Culturally, we're much more drawn to the energetic, dynamic, charismatic, crowd-drawing leader. That's who gets the headlines and the attention. But if we listen closely and watch carefully, we can see in Jesus someone who is humble, but strong; humble, but charismatic; humble, but crowd drawing; humble, but dynamic.

You see, the same Lord who stilled the storm and spoke to the crowds is the Lord who washed feet and died on a cross and held babies in his arms when it wasn't politically correct.

So maybe we need to rethink humility and live it like Jesus did. Come to think of it, that's exactly what we need to do; no maybe about it. Let's be like Jesus and the humility comes along with the character!

<https://www.heartlight.org/wjd/matthew/1028-wjd.html>

- **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, You said, "O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Today we choose to walk humbly with You. We choose to live by Your Holy Spirit and to follow Your lead. Help us to hear You clearly, for we do not want to walk by pride or self-sufficiency, we want to walk with You. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen

## Wednesday, March 3, 2021

- **Readings of the day**
  - Jeremiah 18:18-20 *Come, let us bring charges against him.*
  - Psalm 31 *Save me, O Lord, in your steadfast love.*
  - Matthew 20:17-28 *The Son of Man will be condemned to death.*



- **Reflection**

On three different occasions the Gospels record that Jesus predicted he would endure great suffering through betrayal, rejection, and the punishment of a cruel death. The Jews resorted to stoning and the Romans to crucifixion- the most painful and humiliation death they could devise for criminals they wanted to eliminate. No wonder the apostles were greatly distressed at such a prediction! If Jesus their Master were put to death, then they would likely receive the same treatment by their enemies. Jesus called himself the “Son of Man” because this was a common Jewish title for the Messiah. Why must the Messiah be rejected and killed? Did not God promise that his Anointed One would deliver his people from their oppression and establish a kingdom of peace and justice? The prophet Isaiah had foretold that it was God’s will that the “Suffering Servant” make atonement for sins through his suffering and death. Jesus paid the price for our redemption with his blood. Slavery to sin is to want the wrong things and to be in bondage to destructive desires. The ransom Jesus paid sets us free from the worst tyranny possible—the tyranny of sin and the fear of death. Jesus’ victory did not end with death but triumphed over the tomb. Jesus defeated the powers of death through his resurrection. Do you want the greatest freedom possible, the freedom to live as God truly meant us to live as his sons and daughters? <https://dailyscripture.servantsoftheword.org>

- **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, your death brought life and freedom. May I always walk in that freedom and be guided by your love and truth that I may be generous towards all and give each their due. We ask this through Christ our Lord, AMEN.

## Thursday, March 4, 2021

- **Readings of the day**
  - Jeremiah 17:5-10 *Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals blessed are those who trust in the Lord.*
  - Psalm 1 *Happy are they who hope in the Lord*
  - Luke 16:19-31 *You received your good things, and Lazarus evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony.*



- **Reflection**

It is interesting to note that Lazarus is the only name given to anyone in Jesus’ parables; it means El-azar, ‘God has helped.’ This is a reminder to us that no poor person is invisible to God. Each needy person that we pass on the street is known to God by name and loved by God. When is the last time that, as I dropped a coin in a hat, I asked the person his or her name?

It is not that the rich man did not believe. He found himself in torment because of the way he treated others. As St James writes in the New Testament, ‘What good is it, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also, faith by itself if it does not have works, is dead.’  
Sacredspace.ie

- **Prayer**

Father of the poor, in the fullness of your reign everyone has enough, and no one suffers. Show us what we must do to live within your kingdom so that we might ultimately live with you forever. Through Christ our Lord, AMEN.

Friday, March 5, 2021

- **Readings of the day**

- Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a , 17b-28 *Here comes this dreamer, let us kill him.*
- Psalm 105 *Remember the marvels the Lord has done.*
- Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46 *The heir; come, let us kill him.*



- **Reflection**

Joseph was his father's favourite and his brothers knew it. Joseph also reported everything they did to their father, and because he told Jacob all the bad things they did, they held a grudge against him. The thing is, though, that if they had not been doing anything bad, then Joseph would only have had good things to report. They obviously perceived Joseph as a tattletale, a goodie two shoes doing everything their father asked and were jealous.

Joseph seems to have taken great pride in telling his brothers all about his dreams. He has the gift of being able to interpret dreams from God, but here, he uses it to score against his brothers, to make himself look good. It is not until he has suffered imprisonment and false accusation that he finally learned to trust in God, to give Him the glory. It took suffering for God to be able to use Joseph and it all started with Joseph's brothers selling him into slavery. God then turned this wicked act into something that saved an entire nation.

Sometimes, when we are going through trials, when there is illness, death, financial problems, marital problems, job difficulties, trouble at school, it seems like God is far away, that He doesn't care and is leaving us to fend for ourselves. I am sure there were times when Joseph thought about that as he was taken away into slavery and captivity. The things we have been through may make us more sympathetic people, kinder, more accepting, even if we want those things to magically disappear. God uses the troubles we go through to refine us, to make us more like Christ and to turn us into the people he has always designed us to be. <http://rreflectionsonlife.blogspot.com>

- **Prayer**

Heavenly Father reveal to us the ways we hurt those closest to us. Help us to forgive those we love. Lead us to mutual understanding and strengthen the bonds of familial and spiritual love. Through Christ, our Lord, AMEN.

Saturday, March 6, 2021

- **Readings of the day**

- Micah 7:14-15, 18-20 *God will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.*
- Psalm 103 *The Lord is kind and merciful.*
- Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 *This brother of yours was dead and has come to life.*



- **Reflection**

No one has God's extraordinary power to forgive. God, in an outpouring of love, shares this great gift of forgiving with us. Forgiveness frees us from the burden of anger and hurt; it empowers us to heal and move forward. Although forgiveness brings healing and consolation, it is a gift we often have to ask for every day. Daily Prayer, Liturgy Training Publications.

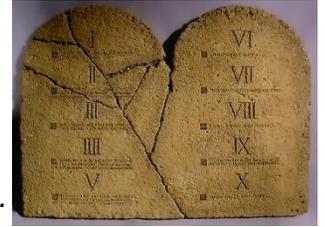
- **Prayer**

Loving and forgiving God, your gift of forgiveness helps us overcome division, and restore the bonds of fellowship. May we never cease to ask you for this gift. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. AMEN

Sunday, March 7, 2021

- **Readings of the day**

- Exodus 20:1-17 *The Law was given through Moses.*
- Psalm 19 *Lord, you have the words of eternal life.*
- 1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-25 *We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to some, but to those who are called, the wisdom of God.*
- John 2:13-25 *Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*



- **Reflection**

Catholics follow the Ten Commandments because Christ, Himself, followed them and because He told others to follow them ([Matthew 19:16-19](#)). We also follow them because they were given to us by God. In the book of Exodus, we read how God himself gave these commandments to the Israelites through the help of Moses. However, there is more to following the Ten Commandments than just because ‘God told us to.’

**We obey God’s commands because He loves us!** Because God loves us and loves us perfectly, we can always trust His word. Also, because God created us we can trust that He always knows what is best for us.

In giving us the Ten Commandments He’s not trying to take away our fun or our freedom. Instead, He’s showing us how we were meant to live. How were we meant to live? We were meant to live in a loving relationship with both God and each other. While there are 10, they really boil down to these two things: loving God and loving each other ([Matthew 22:37-40](#)).

Far from limiting our freedom and taking away our fun, these commands will bring us life! Imagine how much better the world would be if everyone kept the Ten Commandments. There would be no murders, no thefts, no broken families, no wars. The Ten Commandments lead to a fulfilled life here on earth and more importantly it leads to everlasting life after death.

When a man asked Christ what he must do to have eternal life, Christ told him ‘If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments’ ([Matthew 19: 16-19](#)).

[Lifeteen.com/blog](#)

- **Prayer**

Psalm 119

<sup>1</sup>Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup>Happy are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart,

<sup>3</sup>who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways.

<sup>4</sup>You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.

<sup>5</sup>O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

<sup>6</sup>Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

<sup>7</sup>I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous ordinances.

<sup>8</sup>I will observe your statutes; do not utterly forsake me. AMEN.