



# “Blessed Are The Merciful”

2021 Advent Retreat

## 2nd Presentation

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Advent Retreat  
Fr. James Northrop  
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[www.thegraceofpentecost.com](http://www.thegraceofpentecost.com)

# Mercy

The qualities of God's character by which he shows himself compassionate, accepting, and generous to sinful human beings, shielding them from his wrath, forgiving them, and bestowing on them his righteousness so that they can live and grow in faith and obedience. Grace and mercy are particularly expressed through God's covenant with his chosen people and through Jesus Christ's atoning death on the cross.

Manser, M. H. (2009). Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies. London: Martin Manser.

# How To Receive Mercy

- Humility - an honest assessment of our lives in light of God's Revelation.
- Radical Dependence on Grace and the merits of Calvary
- Openness to the action of the Holy Spirit
- Everyone is broken. Grace builds on nature and purifies from the effects of sin.

# How To Receive Mercy

1847 “God created us without us: but he did not will to save us without us.” To receive his mercy, we must admit our faults. “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 117 (387, 1455)

1848 As St. Paul affirms, “Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.” But to do its work grace must uncover sin so as to convert our hearts and bestow on us “righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Like a physician who probes the wound before treating it, God, by his Word and by his Spirit, casts a living light on sin: (385; 1433)

Conversion requires convincing of sin; it includes the interior judgment of conscience, and this, being a proof of the action of the Spirit of truth in man’s inmost being, becomes at the same time the start of a new grant of grace and love: “Receive the Holy Spirit.” Thus in this “convincing concerning sin” we discover a double gift: the gift of the truth of conscience and the gift of the certainty of redemption. The Spirit of truth is the Consoler.

**Catholic Church. (2000). Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd Ed., pp. 452–453). Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference.**

# Mercy For Everyone

The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us – all of us. And, he wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy.

# The “ABC’s” of Mercy

- A - Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.
- B - Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.
- C - Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

# Mercy In Scripture

## (Joseph)

“Come closer to me,” Joseph told his brothers. When they had done so, he said: “I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. But now do not be distressed, and do not be angry with yourselves for having sold me here. It was really for the sake of saving lives that God sent me here ahead of you. The famine has been in the land for two years now, and for five more years cultivation will yield no harvest. God, therefore, sent me on ahead of you to ensure for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives in an extraordinary deliverance. So it was not really you but God who had me come here; and he has made me a father to Pharaoh, lord of all his household, and ruler over the whole land of Egypt.

**Genesis 45:4–8 (NABRE)**

# Mercy In Scripture

## (King David)

Nathan's Parable. The Lord sent Nathan to David, and when he came to him, he said: "Tell me how you judge this case: In a certain town there were two men, one rich, the other poor. The rich man had flocks and herds in great numbers. But the poor man had nothing at all except one little ewe lamb that he had bought. He nourished her, and she grew up with him and his children. Of what little he had she ate; from his own cup she drank; in his bosom she slept; she was like a daughter to him. Now, a visitor came to the rich man, but he spared his own flocks and herds to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him: he took the poor man's ewe lamb and prepared it for the one who had come to him." David grew very angry with that man and said to Nathan: "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves death! He shall make fourfold restitution for the lamb because he has done this and was unsparing." Then Nathan said to David: "You are the man!"



# Mercy In Scripture

## (King David)

David's Repentance. Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." Nathan answered David: "For his part, the Lord has removed your sin. You shall not die, but since you have utterly spurned the Lord by this deed, the child born to you will surely die." Then Nathan returned to his house.

**2 Samuel 12:13–15 (NABRE)**

# The Eyes of Mercy

- St. John Bosco (full formation of mind, body, spirit, and soul)
- Affirms the good - calls the person to genuine conversion and the fullness of life (John 10:10) The example of Cornelius (Acts 10)
- Strives to admonish with charity (Ephesians 4:15) (help people grow spiritually) Apollos (Acts 18:24-27)
- Proactive & Positive and Relational

# Testimonies of Mercy

- “Heart of Man” [41:26]
- “The Face of Mercy” [40:28]