

The Parables of Mercy

From: The Parables of Mercy; in: Series on Mercy, by Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization

Luke's gospel, the "Gospel of Mercy", tells the life of Jesus with mercy as its main theme.

- Lk 15: 1-32 The lost sheep, the lost coin, the prodigal son.
- Lk 7:41-43 The two debtors and their creditor: Whoever is forgive more loves more
- Lk 10: 25-37 The good Samaritan: Compassion for a stranger
- Lk 16:19-31 The rich man and the beggar Lazarus: The opposite of mercy
- Lk 18:1-8 The unjust judge and the persistent widow: How do we change God's mind?
- Lk 18:9-14 The Pharisee and the publican in the temple: Who is justified by God?

Jesus' acts of mercy:

- Mk 1:41 Healing a leper
- Lk 18:38 Healing a blind man
- Jn 8:3-11 Jesus frees a woman about to be stoned
- Lk 7:36-50 Jesus allows himself to be touched by a sinful woman

Ibid pg. 9f

Other texts:

- Mt 18:22 I do not say seven times, but seventy times seven times
- Mt 18:33 Should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?
- Mt 18:35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart
- Eph 4:26 Do not let the sun go down on your anger
- Mt 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy
- Lk 11:2-4 ... forgive us our sins as we forgive those who trespass against us

Hymns of mercy:

- Lk 1:49-52 Magnificat: ... and his mercy is on those who fear him
- Lk 1:72-78 Benedictus: ... to perform the mercy promised to our fathers ... in the forgiveness of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God ...

Why use parables?

Real life is conveyed through Jesus' parables, and all the ones about mercy are told in terms of a three-way relationship, "he, I, and the other"; i.e. a priest, a Levite and a Samaritan; a shepherd, 99 sheep, and one lost sheep; a housewife, nine drachmas, and one lost drachma, etc. Ibid pg. 12

Mercy is seen from the inside, as a heart issue. "The beauty in the parables of mercy is reflected in a human heart laid bare and is uncovered in the depth of compassion demonstrated toward one's neighbor. ...it is a mercy that generates passion among human beings and can be compared to God's." Ibid pg. 13f

Mercy and Schoenstatt

➤ *The image of God the Father as a father of merciful love*

Fr. Kentenich's farewell words in the Exile shrine, Sept. 15, 1965:

Child, do not forget your mother!

Child, do not forget the mercies of the Eternal Father God... and the mercy of the Blessed Mother!

Child, do not forget your misery." "Do not forget to utilize your miseries in order to grow deeper into the heart of the Eternal Father God." (Exile Legacy Book, pg. 94f)

The image of God the Father: a father of love and of mercy. "What is new to us, however, is the **extraordinary magnitude of this divine merciful love.**" (Ibid. pg. 128)

➤ *The image of the child accepting his state of "misery", acknowledging his weaknesses*

"Everyday Sanctity puts it this way: The recognized and **acknowledged weakness** of the child is the child's power and the Father's powerlessness." (Ibid. pg. 129)

➤ *The shrine as the cradle of mercy where we experience the motherly, merciful love of Mary*

Mary, Mother of Mercy: Mary attests that the mercy of the Son of God knows no bounds and extends to everyone, without exception. (# 24)

➤ *Mercy is a fruit of self-education, striving for holiness: the shrine graces of inner transformation*

Forgiveness, compassion, kindness, merciful love presuppose serious striving on our part, and God's grace of the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to aspire to the heights of holiness.