

Living Life as Sacred Story 2014: FORTY WEEKS

Weeks 22: Advice and Suggestions

Week 22 brings us the fourth word of *Sacred Story Prayer*:

MERCY

We encounter in this word the the God who is MERCY. St. John Paul put it this way: Mercy has become incarnate.

The truth, revealed in Christ, about God the “Father of mercies,” enables us to “see” Him as particularly close to man especially when man is suffering, when he is under threat at the very heart of his existence and dignity. And this is why, in the situation of the Church and the world today, many individuals and groups guided by a lively sense of faith are turning, I would say almost spontaneously, to the mercy of God. They are certainly being moved to do this by Christ Himself, who through His Spirit works within human hearts. For the mystery of God the “Father of mercies” revealed by Christ becomes, in the context of today’s threats to man, as it were a unique appeal addressed to the Church.¹

Remembering our sins and wounds can be challenging. To help us overcome our fears, God has given us the Merciful Christ who understands, shoulders all sin and evil, and seeks to forgive us. We must overcome all fears and bring our brokenness to the Merciful Christ who “emptied himself, taking the form of a slave” (Phil 2:7) – to save us and make the desert-places in our lives bloom with new life (Is 35:1).

The [Week 22 E&W](#) gives us some important insights on how to understand the concept of Mercy generally in our lives, and how we can go deeper in our prayer times. We will be “rich in mercy” and rewarded if we can set aside a few extra minutes to read through the E&W. As always, these are for optional use outside of our 15-minute prayer periods, but they will frequently open up new perspectives on the lessons. Mercy is so critical for our spiritual lives – let us always pray for the grace to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us! (Mt 5:38-48)

¹ See: “Dives In Misericordia #2”:

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_30111980_dives-in-misericordia_en.html