

## Day Ten Meditation: Receiving Mercy & Being Merciful

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Mt 5:7

When most think of mercy, they picture a judge who has every right under the law to condemn the transgressor, but instead dismisses the charges. Who among us has not seen this truth in respect to God? We know that if we were to stand before the Just Judge, Jesus Christ, he would have every right to give us what we deserve, which would be punishment for not being holy as he is holy. Jesus is the measure of man. It is so easy to be self-impressed when we compare ourselves to the wicked of the world, those dirty souls, as we see them, that scoff at the ways of God. Wait! It is not before them that we stand as our standard of measuring up to righteousness. We say, *"At least I am not like ..."* as our finger searches, pointing at those despotic ones throughout history whom we are not like. In the myriad of souls to whom we compare ourselves, there is only one by whom we are to be measured, and it is Jesus. On that day of judgment, the truth will be known. Nothing will be hidden. Jesus will rise from his great white throne, and with his nail-pierced hands, he will point at us; we will see our sin truly as it is, knowing it to be of no defence. We will fall on our knees and cry out, *"Mercy, Jesus!"* Jesus will respond. *"I am mercy itself. Now, go and be merciful as I am merciful."*

*"Now, go, and be merciful to ..."* This is a great place to insert the name of your spouse. In the midst of the pain, hurt, betrayal, and dismissal of your person as if you were not, the truth is that you deserve justice; it is only right that your husband/wife see and know all they have done to you, then suffer as you have, and maybe suffer even more. How easy it is to sit with friends and tell all that they, your lawful mate, has done to you. Those who hear would, no doubt, be compassionate to you, as they should. We can so want to raise the crowd, each with pitch fork in hand, to storm the castle and slay the beast, that we forget that the one whom we attack is the one whom we once believed was worth our very life. This is natural, of the flesh, the fallen man, but not supernatural. You, son/daughter of God, live by another way of life which your Sacrament awaits, ready to empower you to live supernaturally with mercy.

The Sacrament of Matrimony, which you were given as a gift on the day when you stood at the Altar of God, is the grace you needed to make it through this time by responding with love that is beyond love's possibility to love and forgiveness's possibility to forgive. At the Altar, Jesus, as God, stood with you. From there could see all that lay before you.

# Loving at a Distance

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He had the best view of your life's future from that Altar; he could see from that day into your eternity. Because he was able to see all you would face, he planted in the moments ahead all that you would need to sacrificially love your beloved as he does, extending to them the same mercy he wishes them to experience from his hand of judgment.

Let us be clear. The covenant you made with Jesus on the day of your Sacrament, what you gave Jesus for your life to be, was for you to be his presence to your beloved, who is first, his beloved. You are to be for them, him. Stop and consider the wonder of what this means - You are to be for them, him. You are to be Jesus' hands to caress with tenderness when the hurts of life overwhelm the one for whom he came from heaven; you are to be his lips that speak blessing when all they hear is curse of what they are not and should be, and that curse speaks, "Failure"; you are to be his ears to take within yourself what they share, hearing it with great care so that they know they are not alone in the midst of all the uncertainties of life; you are for them Jesus' compassion and mercy when they know they deserve quite the opposite. Jesus so loves your spouse that he gave you as a tangible, touchable, hearable place to find him. Maybe you have never seen the vast wonder of what happened that day of your marriage. On that day, you became mercy for the broken one whom you embraced as your own.

If you are realizing this for the first time, it should cause you to be aware of the weightiness of what you have chosen to be and do. It is only reasonable for you to say, "*I can't be this and do that!*" and in doing so, you would be making one of the most consequential statements you have made in your marriage. Remember the ABCs of the Spiritual Life that we learned yesterday. What you have undertaken can only be lived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and that is why Matrimony must be a Sacrament, because it is a call to live in divine love for the sake of your Covenanted One. Because your Covenant is a Sacrament, it is imbued with all you need to be Jesus for your beloved.

Now, look at their weakness. Now, look at their violation of you and your marriage. Now, you know that only a merciful response is what you are to offer.

Maybe in the life that has been given as a total gift to you for you to take care of, you are the only one from whom they will ever receive and experience the unconditional love of God. Would you not, if it were put this bluntly to you when you made your vows, say, "*Yes, I will be that for you, ..... My life is yours. Do with me as you will?*" This is why the following is part of the Prayert Protocol as the Morning Consecration:

### **Crucifix**

*(While putting on your crucifix, kiss it, then pray ...)*

Father, I love you.

Thank you for this day and all your blessings.  
All I am and all I have, I give to you.  
Take my life and do with it as you will.

### **Wedding Ring**

*(While putting on your wedding ring or holding it, kiss the ring, and then pray ...)*

Father,

I give myself to you through my beloved, (Name your beloved)

(Name of your spouse), I love you.

All I am and have, I give to you.

Take my life and do with it as you will.

Father, teach me how to love your son/daughter as you love her/him.

Daily, we need to remember who we have vowed to be for our beloved. Daily, we need to renew our commitment. Daily, we need the grace to live that call. The reason you are invited to start by kissing the cross and then putting it on is that the cross is the sign of Jesus' love for you, speaking, "Only Sacrificial Love Satisfies." The cross shows you the way of marriage, the way of Divine Love. Knowing you are so loved, you can now kiss your ring and again offer yourself in sacrificial love for the one with whom and for whom you stood at the Altar of God.

There is one thing that was surely true regarding you and them as you stood at the Altar, and it is the truth that both of you would need mercy from the other. Today is the day to choose once again to be mercy for your husband/wife. Choose this, and you will find life. Choose it not, and all you will have is death, that which was and is now not.

Father, thank you for helping me to see more clearly  
what you have called me to be for your son/daughter.

I choose, once again, to be the presence of Jesus to them and for them,  
no more and no less.

I know you have hidden in my life since the day of our becoming one,  
all that I need for life and holiness.

I choose to be merciful to (name of your beloved)  
even as you have been merciful to me.

Jesus,

I am weak.

Change my heart to love as you love, and to forgive as you forgive.