

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

February 20, 2022

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 26:2, 7–9, 12–13, 22–23 † 1 Corinthians 15:45–49 † Luke 6:27–38



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The Gospel readings these past few weeks continue to lead us towards our Lenten journey...preparing our hearts, minds, and spirits. Jesus speaks to us today by asking each one of us to complete a task that needs much work and at times is difficult.

Jesus says, "Love your enemies, do good to those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." How is this possible? We are asked by Jesus to do something that does not come naturally to us. What Jesus is asking us, at this present moment, is not to give in to our initial reaction, because it will only lead to mutual destruction, but to act on it by practicing love and mercy. Jesus says, "Be merciful just as your Father is merciful."

What does it mean to be merciful for each one of us at this present moment in our lives? Maybe it is realizing that we may have resentments, anger, or feelings that have been buried with time. Perhaps it is offering prayers for those who have hurt us, expressing gratitude for the gift of being able to recognize the power of forgiveness and reconciliation, or being Christ to others?

We can find solace in the prayer of the Divine Mercy Chaplet:

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasure of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.