

Gospel of Mercy





Gathering: The Gospel call to mercy is incarnated in the person of Jesus, his teachings and interactions. Jesus taught through word and action, through parable and story the critical importance of caring for others as ourselves, of finding the lost and confronting injustice. The Theological Framework describes the Gospels as the blueprint for a new way of structuring human relations.

From the *Theological Framework*

The gospel announces that God makes the story of each and every human victim God's own story, and that we truly know God only in life giving friendship and solidarity with people who suffer the de-humanising forces of culture and society. Any practice of mercy that somehow sidesteps or stands apart from the perspective of those most in need fails to recognise the lived meaning of mercy in Jesus.

For personal reflection

Which are your favourite Gospel stories about Jesus?
How many of these stories involve Jesus' solidarity with those who suffer?

SCRIPTURE
PASSAGE

Matthew 25:45

***“Jesus said: Truly I tell you, just as you
you did not***

Reading

A commitment to social justice is an essential characteristic of a life lived according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is not possible, in the Catholic tradition, to live out a full life of faith in the absence of this commitment. The work for justice is an essential and urgent task for Christians since too many people are suffering and urgent reforms and bold transformations are required. Although the call to work for justice is clear, consistent and unambiguous, it is not always heard and acted upon. At times this is because the words are heard clearly enough but the message is opposed because of hardness of heart. The Church itself needs to reflect continually on both its actions and the manner of its communication to ensure the clear proclamation of the Gospel.

– *Social Justice in Everyday Life – An issues paper from the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council*. Read the full document at goo.gl/3b3F98.

Discussion

Who are those most in need in our ministry and how do we embrace the perspective of these people in our day-to-day decisions and actions?

Prayer

God of Radical Mercy,

In your image and by your example we are called to be counter cultural in a world that often turns away from the most vulnerable.

Enable us to stand with the poor, to speak against injustice, to build communities that are inclusive and life-giving.

Help us to be radical in our embrace of mercy.

Open our ears and hearts to the

Gospel message.

Amen.

Reference: *Mercy Partners Theological Framework*,
Chapter 2 – The Experience of God's Mercy.

READ MORE

You can read more on the Gospels of Mercy from the scriptures in The Parables of Mercy in Luke's Gospel:
10:25-31 – The Good Samaritan,
15:1-7 – The Lost Sheep,
15:11-32 – The Prodigal Son,
6:19-31 – The Rich Man and Lazarus,
18:1-8 – The Judge and the Widow.

**did not do it to one of the least of these,
do it to me”**



5 Gospel of Mercy

The Path of God's Mercy

A journey in scripture, church and human experience

Mercy is Relational

Mercy is Communion

Mercy is Covenant

God's Eternal Mercy

Gospel of Mercy

Walking in Mercy

Church of Mercy

Hearts of Mercy

God's Name 'Mercy'



© 2018 Mercy Partners. www.mercypartners.org.au
facebook.com/mercypartnersaustralia
Visit Mercy Partners website to download a printable version of this resource for your board: www.mercypartners.org.au/board-resource