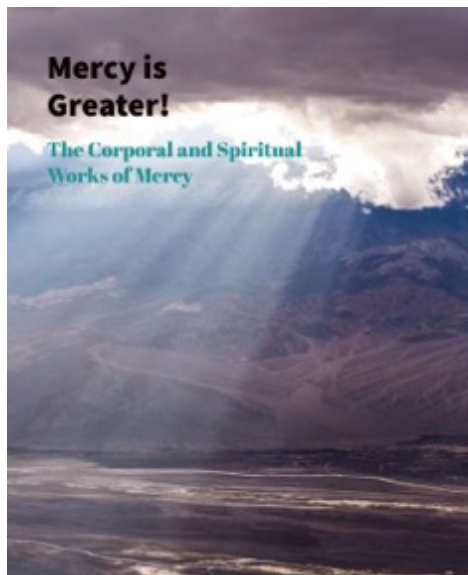


St. Mark Study Guide

Mercy is Greater: The corporal and spiritual works of mercy



The “great river of mercy,” as Pope Francis calls it in *Misericordia Vultus*, “never runs dry” because there are always those who are willing to perform acts of mercy in their everyday lives.

1. “I walk a line between the mountain top and the desert; between virtue and vice; between sinner and saint.” What do you think he means? Can you relate to this? How has this been your experience?
2. The narrator says that fear gets the best of him. What is your reaction to the world around you? Are you fearful? Angry? Confused? Hopeful? Inspired?
3. What is the connection between Jesus’ love and his mercy?
4. The narrator mentions a paradox: where sin abounds (exists in large amounts), grace abounds all the more (Romans 5:20). What does this mean?
5. So what can we conclude is God’s response to sin?

The Works of Mercy are...

Corporal Works of Mercy	Spiritual Works of Mercy
Feed the hungry	Instruct the ignorant
Give drink to the thirsty	Counsel the doubtful

Clothe the naked	Comfort the afflicted
Harbor the homeless	Bear wrongs patiently
Visit the imprisoned	Forgive offenses
Visit the sick	Admonish the sinner
Bury the dead	Pray for the living and the dead

6. Which of the works of mercy is the easiest for you to do? Which is the hardest?
7. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that “giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity.” How much do you give to the poor? Could you give more, perhaps even consider tithing?
8. The word for mercy in Latin is *miser cordia*, from the words for misery and heart. It might be defined as “compassion with the pity that it entails and fidelity with love as a requirement.” How does this definition of mercy fit with your own experiences of both giving and receiving mercy?