

“The Gospel is the revelation in Jesus Christ of God’s mercy to sinners” (CCC 1846). Divine Mercy is the Gospel. It’s the good news.¹ Two-thousand years ago, Jesus came in the flesh to help us understand this firsthand. Jesus teaches through parables like the Good Samaritan that we are called to be loving and merciful neighbors.

Jesus also teaches by example:

A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho.	Jesus fell victim to scribes and Pharisees as he went to Jerusalem for the Passover.
They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead.	Jesus was arrested, stripped, and lashed at the pillar. Half dead was not good enough. They wanted him crucified.
A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.	Peter denied Jesus three times before the cock crowed. All of the apostles but John scattered and hid.
Likewise, a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.	Crowds cheered him on Palm Sunday. By Good Friday they crossed to the other side and yelled: “Crucify him! Crucify him!”
But a Samaritan traveler was moved with compassion at the sight.	A Cyrenian named Simon helped Jesus carry his cross.
The Samaritan cared for the victim, pouring oil and wine over his wounds and bandaging him.	To taunt Jesus, the soldiers gave him a bitter wine.
Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn, and cared for him.	After he died, Joseph of Arimathea lifted his body up and laid it in a new tomb.
The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.	Jesus paid the price for our sins with his life. He sacrificed his body and blood to heal us and he came back from the dead.
Jesus ends his parable, by asking the question, “Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers’ victim?”	After the resurrection, Jesus asks Peter, “Do you love me?” In time, Peter and all of the apostles will show their love by sacrificing their lives like Jesus.
The Samaritan treated the victim with mercy. Jesus invites us to, “Go and do likewise.”	Who do you know that needs care and understanding? Jesus invites you to be a Good Samaritan. Share his mercy with others.

Jesus also teaches us about Divine Mercy through his saints. Today we celebrate the Memorial of Saint Faustina Kowalska, a Polish mystic who was given extraordinary insights into the merciful heart and mind of Jesus. Jesus told her to write everything down in a diary and for her to spread the message of the Divine Mercy of Jesus.

Jesus is delighted when we pray to him and ask for mercy. In the words of Jesus to Saint Faustina. “To such souls I grant even more graces than they ask. I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to My compassion” (Diary 1146).

In turn, Jesus asks us to practice being merciful to others. When we encounter suffering, poverty, brokenness, and sin, we can put mercy into action by responding like the Good Samaritan. Show love for your neighbor with a prayer on their behalf, a thoughtful word of encouragement, and a loving and merciful deed.

¹ marian.org/whatwedo/divinemeracy.php