

## Nine Week Novena For Mercy

### **Week Four** **Mercy Does Not Judge**

**“Stop judging, that you may not be judged. For as you judge, so will you be judged, and the measure with which you measure will be measured out to you.” Matthew 7:1-2**

Every time that we choose to judge someone, we are failing to be merciful. Someone may be wrong, they may even deserve to be judged, but mercy does not judge. We are called to be merciful for the Father is merciful to us, so too are we to be merciful to others.

**Listen well: each of us is capable of doing the same thing as the man or woman who is in prison. We all have the capacity to sin and to do the same, to make mistakes in life. They are no worse than you or I". Pope Francis**

**"Mercy overcomes every obstacle, knocks down every wall and brings you to always seek the face of the man, the person. And it is mercy that changes hearts and lives, that can regenerate a person and allow them to reintegrate themselves into society. " Pope Francis**

For as often as we judge others, we shall be judged. We are all human, no matter what. Every Saint, every Pope, and every Apostle have all been human. They made mistakes, they spoke hurtful words, they failed to love and to be merciful. They saw a need for greater mercy and they found that they will obtain mercy when they first learn to be merciful to others. There are no evil people in this world, every soul has been created by God. We have free will, the will to choose love, mercy and peace or hate, anger and violence. So often we are caught in our own little worlds, we are always trying to obtain something better. We forget that we do not live in our own private worlds, but in one world, where we are one family. Why is this world in such turmoil?

**“If you judge people then you have no time to love them.” Mother Teresa**

We must learn to love one another, to put aside our petty differences, our own ideas of what is standard, what is perfect. Jesus did not say be perfect or go to hell. He sat with the tax collectors; He talked with the women at the well. He never judged, even when they may have been in the wrong. Jesus loved, first and foremost and in His love, He was able to reach deep into their souls and reveal the beauty that the Father has placed inside. We are called to imitate Jesus, to love before all else, to reach into someone's soul and show them the mercy of God in the warmth of your smile.

*Father of infinite mercy,  
Reveal to me the endless depths of Your mercy within my soul.  
Wash my eyes, ears and tongue so that I may be able  
to see, hear and speak without judgement.  
Affirm me in every opportunity to be merciful.  
So that I may always be merciful, as the Father is merciful.*

*AMEN*