



## Day 20 | Extend Mercy

In today's One Percent Prayer, Pete invites us who have experienced God's mercy for us to extend mercy to others.

In today's reading, we hear Jesus speaking of the mercy of our Father through the story of the prodigal son. Even though the son had deeply hurt his father by taking his inheritance while his father was still alive and leaving, when the son returns, the father is watching for him and runs to greet him with love and mercy. Can you imagine how this encounter with his father's love and mercy changed the son after the story ends?

We too are received by our Father with love and mercy no matter what we have done. When we experience the Father's compassion, love, and merciful grace for us, it transforms our lives. When we encounter mercy, we extend mercy. He has loved us to the very end, how then ought we live a little differently?

Today, we invite you to think of one person who has wronged you. They may have said or done hurtful things or failed to say or do what we deserved. Ask the Lord to help you to extend mercy toward them. Extending mercy might look like one of the following:

- In your own prayer, asking Jesus to give you the desire to forgive, or to forgive in you what you have not been able to forgive. Or if you're ready, pray "Jesus, in your name I forgive [name] for [what they have said or done, be specific]."
- Offer an act of mercy, such as doing a small act of service toward them, giving them the gift of choosing to speak kindly of them, or leaving flowers on the grave of a deceased person you're forgiving.
- Have a conversation with the person, perhaps even speaking the words, "I forgive you."

Note: Forgiving someone *does not mean* that you're saying what they did was ok or that you continue to allow them to hurt you. For more about what forgiveness is and how to forgive, see: <https://internationalforgiveness.com/> Know that we're praying for you!