

Fr. Bill's Online Study

33 Days to Merciful Love by Fr Michael Gaitley

March 12 – Day 1

1/33 today we also begin our "33 Days to Merciful Love" with Fr Michael Gaitley.

Today Fr Gaitley explores the Genesis or root of sin, not only the first sin of Adam and Eve but all sin: a lack of trust/faith in God which results in a choice to be disobedient. Think about it. Reflect on your sins. How many would disappear if we simply trusted the Lord enough to follow His will. I dare say "all of them." What do you think?

Our prayer: "Come, Holy Spirit, fire of mercy. Help me better to know the great and unsurpassable goodness of God." I also encourage you to offer three more prayers: pray this prayer on every Brad of your Rosary: "Jesus, I trust in you." Second, pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3pm, if possible. Lastly, offer your Mass today for this intention: may we grow in faith.

Let us pray for one another as we begin our journey!

March 13 – Day 2

2/33 today we continue our Lenten journey with Fr Michael Gaitley's book "33 Days to Merciful Love".

Today Fr Gaitley focuses on the Genesis story of Abraham - our father in faith. It is through trust/faith in God that we are able to "trust God's promises" and "hope against all hope" and to withstand the temptations which lead us into sin. God is faithful. God is merciful. God is love!

Our prayer: "Come, Holy Spirit, fire of mercy. Please give me such trust in God's Word that I might even hope against hope." I also encourage you to offer two more prayers: pray this prayer on every bead of your Rosary: "Jesus, I trust in you." Second, pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy (at 3pm, if possible). Lastly, reach out to someone in need. May God bless you!

March 14 – Day 3

3/33. Today, Fr Gaitley, in "33 Days to Merciful Love", introduces Mary, the mother of faith. He encourages us to contemplate Mary's leap of faith - when the angel proclaimed that she, a virgin, would conceive a child - and not any child - but the Messiah - the Son of God! "She believed God's Word, even when it seemed impossible. She hoped against hope, believing that, as the angel said, 'with God nothing will be impossible.'"

What do you think?

Come, Holy Spirit, fire of mercy.
Help me to believe that with God
nothing will be impossible.

Please also add a Chaplet or at least pray "Jesus, I trust in you!" On each bead of your rosary.

May God bless you!!

March 15 - Day 4

4/33. Today's reading is profound as Fr Gaitley talks about our Blessed Mother's faith during the "hidden years" before Jesus begins his public ministry. It is one thing to have faith when God does extraordinary things, it is quite another to see God in the ordinary events of our life. Often that is the leap of faith we are called to make.

On another note, yesterday's reading needed a bit more clarification. Sometimes we can be too eager in our quest to honor Mary. I don't think it is quite right to say that Jesus is not the supreme model of faith (pg. 31). He is "the way, the truth, and the life" and is the perfect model of faith ... in fact that is the reason He was incarnate ... fully man - he provided the perfect model of how to love Our Heavenly Father and our neighbor. (I mention this only because earlier this week I had to convince a group of children that Mary was not God.)

"Come, Holy Spirit, fire of mercy. Help me to believe in God and his love for me, even when the darkness surrounds me." Please also pray the chaplet of mercy and "Jesus, I trust in you" each bead of the rosary.

May God bless you!