

Did you ever wonder where all that mercy comes from?

Imagine if you could go to the automatic teller machine and be able to take out as much money as you like, and as often as you like, and the supply of money would never run dry.

We cannot do that with money, but we can with grace and mercy. We can go to the ‘bank’, the treasury of mercy, and be forgiven every time, provided there is true sorrow for the sin.

The treasury of mercy never runs dry. God’s mercy is infinite, as are all His attributes.

And also acting in our favour are the infinite merits of the sacrifice of Christ, by which He atones for the sin of the world, and enables any sin to be forgiven.

So we can understand the parable of the unforgiving debtor (Mt 18,21-35). We owe God a debt of reparation that we could never repay. We have offended His infinite majesty and nothing of our own could set that right.

The more hopeless it seems the more remarkable that God's treasury of mercy will prevail.

With a normal person the more often we offend him, the more likely he is to be annoyed.

This is not the case with God. He does not ‘lose His temper’ or ‘get mad’ at us.

However, if we continue to sin against Him, without appropriate sorrow and intention to amend our ways, we will be receiving less mercy, and the effects of the sin will accumulate.

We receive less mercy because we are not claiming it properly. It is not that God is any less willing to give mercy; we are less willing to take it.

We must form purpose of amendment. I cannot just keep going to ask for mercy without some adjustment to my life. I have to think: what is causing the sin? How can I change what I am doing?

Many do not see that they have any sin to be forgiven. Others see the sin but do not believe mercy is possible for them. Others might believe in mercy but not get around to asking for it, or forming any serious intent to change their lives. Many Catholics do not go to Confession, and thus deprive themselves of important grace.

Thus it can happen that despite the abundance of mercy one could still fail to benefit from it. It is like starving outside a bakery.

This will not happen to us. If we engage with God He will move us to true contrition, remove the debt, and set us up to live properly from then on.

Today we celebrate the abundance of divine mercy, and resolve to receive it gratefully.

Mother of Mercy, pray for us.