

Weekly Reflections From Pope Francis

February 28th – March 5th

"One should truly listen to the word, in the Bible, in the Gospel, meditating on the Scriptures to put their content into practice every day. But to scan the Gospel superficially is not listening to the Word of God: this is reading the Word of God, as if one would read a comic strip. To listen to God's Word is to read it and ask oneself: 'What does this say to my heart?' Only in this way, in fact, does our life change. This happens every time we open the Gospel and read a passage and ask ourselves: 'Is God speaking to me with this, is he saying something to me?' This means to listen to the Word of God, to listen with the ears and listen with the heart, to open the heart to God's Word."

March 6th – March 12th

"In the parables devoted to mercy, Jesus reveals the nature of God as that of a Father who never gives up until he has forgiven the wrong and overcome rejection with compassion and mercy. We know these parables well, three in particular: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the father with two sons (cf. Lk 15:1-32). In these parables, God is always presented as full of joy, especially when he pardons. In them we find the core of the Gospel and of our faith, because mercy is presented as a force that overcomes everything, filling the heart with love and bringing consolation through pardon."

— Pope Francis

March 13th – March 19th

"God is joyful. This is interesting: God is joyful! And what is the joy of God? The joy of God is forgiving, the joy of God is forgiving! The joy of a shepherd who finds his little lamb; the joy of a woman who finds her coin; it is the joy of a father welcoming home the son who was lost, who was as though dead and has come back to life, who has come home. Here is the entire Gospel! Here! The whole Gospel, all of Christianity, is here! But make sure that it is not sentiment, it is not being a 'do-gooder'! On the contrary, mercy is the true force that can save man and the world from the 'cancer' that is sin, moral evil, spiritual evil. Only love fills the void, the negative chasms that evil opens in hearts and in history. Only love can do this, and this is God's joy!"

— Pope Francis

March 20th - March 26th

"Jesus is all mercy, Jesus is all love: he is God made man. Each of us, each one of us, is that little lost lamb, the coin that was mislaid; each one of us is that son who has squandered his freedom on false idols, illusions of happiness, and has lost everything. But God does not forget us, the Father never abandons us. He is a patient father, always waiting for us! He respects our freedom, but he remains faithful forever. And when we come back to him, he welcomes us like children into his house, for he never ceases, not for one instant, to wait for us with love. And his heart rejoices over every child who returns. He is celebrating because he is joy. God has this joy. when one of us sinners goes to him and asks his forgiveness."

— Pope Francis

March 27th - April 2nd

"Do we have mercy and forgiveness in our hearts? What is the danger? It is that we presume we are righteous and judge others. We also judge God, because we think that he should punish sinners, condemn them to death, instead of forgiving. . . . If in our heart there is no mercy, no joy of forgiveness, we are not in communion with God, even if we observe all of his precepts alone. It is love of God and neighbor that brings fulfillment to all the Commandments. And this is the love of God, his joy: forgiveness."

— Pope Francis