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WORKS OF MERCY

SPAZIO†SPADONI

GENERATES ACTIONS OF MISSION AND MERCY ALL OVER THE WORLD



WORKS OF MERCY

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

(Matthew 25,31-46).

THE MERCY

Rehamin is the first Hebrew term that represents Mercy, expresses what is inside us; the location for our motions, our “heart”: is the plural of the word réhèm, mother's breast, the female uterus: As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. (Psalm 103,13)

VISITING THE BROTHERS

³⁰Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. (Luke 10,30-33)

TESTIFY

¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5,16)

“BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL” (Matthew 5,7)

¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” (Mark 1,17)
⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. (Matthew 5,7)

C O R P O R A L WORKS OF MERCY

1. To feed the hungry
2. To give water to the thirsty
3. To clothe the naked
4. To shelter the homeless
5. To visit the sick
6. To visit the imprisoned, or ransom the captive
7. To bury the dead

1. TO FEED THE HUNGRY

Who feeds the hungry is similar to

¹⁵You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger and brought water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and you told them to go in to possess the land that you had sworn to give them. (Nehemiah 9,15)

⁷Who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. (Psalm 146,7) These all look to you, to give them their food in due season. (Psalm 104,27)

Jesus he exhorted to multiply bread and fish, for a hungry mob, the miracle was repeated six times in the gospels.

³⁰The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹And Jesus said to them: "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. ³⁵And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. ³⁶Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." ³⁷But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii[f] worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" ³⁸And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." ³⁹Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. ⁴¹And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴²And they all ate and were satisfied. ⁴³And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men. (Mark 6,30-44)

¹In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, he called his disciples to him and said to them: ²"I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. ³And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away." ⁴And his disciples answered him: "How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?" ⁵And he asked them, "How many loaves do you have?" They said, "Seven." ⁶And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. ⁷And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, Jesus said that these also should be set before them. ⁸And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over seven baskets full. ⁹And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. ¹⁰And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha. ¹¹The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. ¹²And Jesus sighed deeply in his spirit and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation." ¹³And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side. ¹⁴Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. ¹⁵And he cautioned them, saying: "Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." ¹⁶And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. (Mark 8,1-16)

¹³Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said: "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶But Jesus said: "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷They said to him: "We have only five loaves here and two fish." ¹⁸And he said: "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said

a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. (Mattehew 14,13-21)

³²Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way." ³³And the disciples said to him, "Where are we to get enough bread in such a desolate place to feed so great a crowd?" ³⁴And Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" They said, "Seven, and a few small fish." ³⁵And directing the crowd to sit down on the ground, ³⁶he took the seven loaves and the fish, and having given thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ³⁷And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up seven baskets full of the broken pieces left over. ³⁸Those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. ³⁹And after sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan. (Matthew 15,32-19)

¹⁰On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. ¹¹When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing. ¹²Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him: "Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place." ¹³But he said to them: "You give them something to eat." They said: "We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people." ¹⁴For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples: "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." ¹⁵And they did so and had them all sit down. ¹⁶And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. ¹⁷And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces. (Luke 9,10-17)

¹After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ²And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So, the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. (John 6,1-13)

³⁵Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." (John 6,35)

Saith the Lord

⁶"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? ¹⁰If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. (Isaiah 58,6-7.10)

³⁷But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" (Mark 6,37)

2. TO GIVE WATER TO THE THIRSTY

Who gives water to the thirsty is similar to

¹⁵You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger and brought water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and you told them to go in to possess the land that you had sworn to give them. ²⁰You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst. (Nehemiah 9,15,20)

¹Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John ²(although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), ³he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. ⁴And he had to pass through Samaria. ⁵So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there; so, Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him: "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he." ²⁷Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" ²⁸So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹"Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" ³⁰They went out of the town and were coming to him. (John 4,1-30)

¹⁹They said, "An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered the flock." (Exodus 2,19) ⁸"Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you, and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle." (Numbers 20,8)

⁶Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." (John 4,6-12)

Saith the Lord

⁴¹For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward. (Mark 9,41)

²¹If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. (Proverbs 25,21)

²⁰To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing, you will heap burning coals on his head.” (Romans 12,20)

3. TO CLOTHE THE NAKED

Who clothes the naked is similar to

⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. (Genesis 3,7) ²¹And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. (Genesis 3,21)

Saith the Lord

¹⁶Give of your bread to the hungry, and of your garments to those who are naked; and according to your abundance give alms; and do not let your eye be envious, when you give alms. (Tobias 4,16)

¹¹And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” (Luke 3,11)

¹⁵If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? (James 2,15-16)

4. TO SHELTER THE HOMELESS

Who welcomes pilgrims is similar to

²³“The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine. For you are strangers and sojourners with me. (Leviticus 25,23)

⁴⁰Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. ⁴¹And there came a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue. And falling at Jesus' feet, he implored him to come to his house, ⁴²for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As Jesus went, the people pressed around him. ⁴³And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone. ⁴⁴She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased. ⁴⁵And Jesus said, “Who was it that touched me?” When all denied it, Peter said, “Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!” ⁴⁶But Jesus said, “Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me.” ⁴⁷And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. ⁴⁸And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.” ⁴⁹While he was still speaking, someone from the ruler's house came and said, “Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher anymore.” ⁵⁰But Jesus on hearing this answered him, “Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well.” ⁵¹And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. ⁵²And all were weeping and mourning for her, but he said, “Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping.” ⁵³And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. ⁵⁴But taking her by the hand he called, saying, “Child, arise.” ⁵⁵And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. And he directed that something should be given her to eat. ⁵⁶And her parents were amazed, but he charged them to tell no one what had happened. (Luke 8,40-56)

²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11,28)

¹And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth ³and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, ⁵while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three measures of fine flour! Knead it and make cakes." ⁷And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate. ⁹They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." ¹⁰The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" ¹³The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁵But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "No, but you did laugh." ¹⁶Then the men set out from there, and they looked down toward Sodom. And Abraham went with them to set them on their way. ¹⁷The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, ¹⁸seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? ¹⁹For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him." ²⁰Then the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know." ²²So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake." ²⁷Abraham answered and said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹Again he spoke to him and said, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹He said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³²Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it." ³³And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place. ¹⁹The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed himself with his face to the earth. (Genesis 18; 19,1)

²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. (Hebrews 13,2)

³²The sojourner has not lodged in the street; I have opened my doors to the traveler (Job 31,32)

Saith the Lord

³³When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. ³⁴You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in

the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. (Leviticus 19,33-34)

⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. (1 Peter 4,9)

¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. (Romans 12,13)

5. TO VISIT THE SICK

Who visits the sick is similar to

¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. (Ezekiel 34,16) "...I am the LORD, your healer." (Exodus 15,26)

²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. (Matthew 4,24)

¹⁵So that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. ¹⁶The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. (Acts 5,15-16)

³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵And the next day he took out two denarii[c] and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, "Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back." ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise." (Luke 10,30-37)

⁸It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. And Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him, healed him. (Acts 28,8)

Saith the Lord

³⁵Do not shrink from visiting a sick man, because for such deeds you will be loved. (Sirach 7,35)

⁸Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. (Matthew 10,8)

6. TO VISIT THE IMPRISONED, OR RANSOM THE CAPTIVE

Who visits prisoners is similar to

³³For the LORD hears the needy and does not despise his own people who are prisoners. (Psalm 69,33)

⁶God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land. (Psalm 68,6) ⁷...The LORD sets the prisoners free; (Psalm 146,7)

¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, (Luke 4,18)

¹⁵And the men who have been mentioned by name rose and took the captives, and with the spoil they clothed all who were naked among them. They clothed them, gave them sandals, provided them with food and drink, and anointed them, and carrying all the feeble among them on donkeys, they brought them to their kinsfolk at Jericho, the city of palm trees. Then they returned to Samaria. (2 Chronicles 28,15)

Saith the Lord

³Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. (Hebrews 13,3)

³⁴For you had compassion on those in prison, (Hebrews 10,34)

7. TO BURY THE DEAD

Who buries the dead is similar to

⁶“Hear us, my lord; you are a prince of God among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will withhold from you his tomb to hinder you from burying your dead.” (Genesis 23,6)

⁷So Joseph went up to bury his father. With him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household, and all the elders of the land of Egypt...¹⁴After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had gone up with him to bury his father. (Genesis 50,7,14)

¹⁷If they were hungry, I shared my food with them; if they needed clothes, I gave them some of my own. Whenever I saw that the dead body of one of my people had been thrown outside the city wall, I gave it a decent burial. ¹⁸One day Sennacherib cursed God, the King of Heaven; God punished him, and Sennacherib had to retreat from Judah. On his way back to Media he was so furious that he killed many Israelites. But I secretly removed the bodies and buried them; and when Sennacherib later searched for the bodies, he could not find them. ¹⁹Then someone from Nineveh told the emperor that I was the one who had been burying his victims. As soon as I realized that the emperor knew all about me and that my life was in danger, I became frightened. So I ran away and hid. ²⁰Everything I owned was seized and put in the royal treasury. My wife Anna and my son Tobias were all I had left. (Tobit 1,17-20)

¹When I returned home I was reunited with my wife Anna and my son Tobias. At the Harvest Festival, which is also called the Festival of Weeks, I sat down to a delicious meal. ²When I saw how much food there was on the table, I said to Tobias, Son, go out and find one of our people who is living in poverty here in exile, someone who takes God's commands seriously. Bring him back with you, so that he can share this festival meal with us. I won't start eating until you come back. ³So Tobias went out to look for such a person. But he quickly returned, shouting, Father! Father! Yes, what is it? I asked. One of our people has just been murdered! Someone strangled him and threw his body into the marketplace. ⁴I jumped up and left the table without even touching my food. I removed the body from the street and carried it to a little shed, where I left it until sunset, when I could bury it. ⁵Then I returned home and washed, so as to purify myself. In deep sorrow I ate my dinner. ⁶I was reminded of what the prophet Amos had said to the people of Bethel, “Your festivals will be turned into funerals, and your glad songs will become cries of grief. I began to weep”. ⁷After sunset I went out, dug a grave, and buried the man. ⁸My neighbors thought I was crazy. Haven't you learned anything? they asked. You have already been hunted down once for burying the dead, and you would have been killed if you had not run away. But here you are doing the same thing all over again. ⁹That night I washed, so as to purify myself, and went out into my courtyard to sleep by the wall. It was a hot night, and I did not pull the cover up over my head. (Tobit 2,1-9)

⁵⁷When it was evening, a rich man from Arimathea arrived; his name was Joseph, and he also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He went into the presence of Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate gave orders for the body to be given to Joseph. ⁵⁹So Joseph took it, wrapped it in a new linen sheet, ⁶⁰and placed it in his own tomb, which he had just recently dug out of solid rock. Then he rolled a large stone across the entrance to the tomb and went away. (Matthew 27,57-60)

³⁸After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. ³⁹Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus[e] by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds[f] in weight. ⁴⁰So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now in the place where he was crucified there was a

garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.⁴² So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there. (John 19,38-42)

Saith the Lord

¹⁶My son, let your tears fall for the dead, and as one who is suffering grievously begin the lament. Lay out his body with the honour due him, and do not neglect his burial. (Sirach 38,16)

¹³⁸Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food⁹—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. (1 Cor 6,13)

S P I R I T U A L WORKS OF MERCY

1. To counsel the doubtful
2. To instruct the ignorant
3. To admonish the sinners
4. To comfort the afflicted
5. To forgive offenses
6. To bear patiently those who wrong us
7. To pray for the living and the dead

1. TO COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL

Who counsels the doubters is similar to

²⁴You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. (Psalm 73,24)

²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. (Isaiah 11,2)

Saith the Lord

⁶If the great Lord is willing, he will be filled with the spirit of understanding; He will pour forth words of wisdom, and give thanks to the Lord in prayer. ⁷He will direct his counsel and knowledge aright, and meditate on his secrets. ⁸He will reveal instruction in his teaching, and will glory in the law of the Lord's covenant.

⁹Many will praise his understanding, and it will never be blotted out; his memory will not disappear, and his name will live through all generations. ¹⁰Nations will declare his wisdom and the congregation will proclaim his praise. (Sirach 39,6-10)

⁵How attractive is wisdom in the aged, and understanding and counsel in honourable men! (Sirach 25,5)

2. TO INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT

Who teaches the ignorant is similar to

¹⁰Does he who disciplines nations not punish? Does he who teaches mankind lack knowledge? (Psalm 94,10)

⁹He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. (Psalm 25,9)

²⁹for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes. (Matthew 7,29)

³⁰The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. (Mark 6,30)

¹Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." (Luke 11,1)

¹³"You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, 'Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you. (Exodus 31,13)

²⁴The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue. ³The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me: When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God, (2 Samuel 23,2-3)

¹³Then you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD: Behold, I will fill with drunkenness all the inhabitants of this land: the kings who sit on David's throne, the priests, the prophets, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

¹⁵Hear and give ear; be not proud, for the LORD has spoken. (Jeremiah 13,13,15)

¹And he said to me, "Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." ¹¹And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' whether they hear or refuse to hear." (Ezekiel 3,1,11)

²⁴"Thus says the LORD of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD." (Haggai 1,2)

³Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 1,3).

Saith the Lord

¹But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. (Titus 2,1)

²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. (1 Corinthians 12,28) ¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds, and teachers, (Ephesians 4,11)

3. TO ADMONISH THE SINNERS

Who admonishes sinners is similar to

⁹Hear me, my people, and I will warn you; if you would only listen to me, Israel! (Psalm 81,8)

³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so, turn, and live." (Ezekiel 18,32)

²⁴Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Matthew 3,2) ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1,15)

¹²The watchman says: "Morning comes, and also the night. If you will inquire, inquire; come back again." (Isaiah 21,12) ⁶⁴"Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: Repent and turn away from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations. (Ezekiel 14,6)

¹And the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had very many flocks and herds, ³but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him. ⁴Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." ⁵Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, ⁶and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity." ⁷Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. ⁸And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. ⁹Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' ¹¹Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. ¹²For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.'" ¹³David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. ¹⁴Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die." ¹⁵Then Nathan went to his house. (2 Samuel 12,1-15)

⁶Turn to him with all your heart and soul, live in loyal obedience to him. Then he will turn to you to help you and will no longer hide himself. Remember what God has done for you, and give thanks with all your heart. Praise the righteous Lord; honor the eternal King. Although I live in exile in a foreign land, I will give thanks to the Lord and will speak of his great strength to a nation of sinners. Turn away from your sins and do what pleases God! Perhaps he will be gracious and show you his mercy. ⁸Let everyone tell of his greatness and sing his praises in Jerusalem. (Tobit 13,6,8)

⁸Do those things that will show that you have turned from your sins. ¹¹I baptize you with water to show that you have repented, but the one who will come after me will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He is much greater than I am; and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals. (Matthew 3,8,11)

³For Herod had earlier ordered John's arrest, and he had him tied up and put in prison. He had done this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. ⁴For some time John the Baptist had told Herod, "It isn't right for you to be married to Herodias!" (Matthew 14,3-4)

²⁰First in Damascus and in Jerusalem and then in the whole country of Israel and among the Gentiles, I preached that they must repent of their sins and turn to God and do the things that would show they had repented. (Acts 26,20)

Saith the Lord

¹⁵“If your brother sins against you, go to him, and show him his fault. But do it privately, just between yourselves. If he listens to you, you have won your brother back. (Matthew 18,15) ²⁰let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. (James 5,20)

4. TO COMFORT THE AFFLICTED

Who comforts the afflicted is similar to

¹²“I, I am he who comforts you; who are you that you are afraid of man who dies, of the son of man who is made like grass (Isaiah 51,12) ¹³As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. (Isaiah 66,13) ¹³Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted. (Isaiah 49,13)

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. (Isaiah 61, 1-3) ¹⁴When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. (Matthew 14,14)

¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper,[f] to be with you forever, ²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. (John 14,16,26)

²⁵I chose their way and sat as chief, and I lived like a king among his troops, like one who comforts mourners. (Job 29,25)

²⁴By the spirit of might he saw the last things, and comforted those who mourned in Zion. (Sirach 48,24)

Saith the Lord

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. (Isaiah 40,1)

³⁴Do not fail those who weep, but mourn with those who mourn. (Sirach 7,34)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. (2 Corinthians 1,3-4)

⁴⁶Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. (Matthew 5,4)

5. TO FORGIVE OFFENSES

Who forgives offenses is similar to

¹⁷They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them. (Nehemiah 9,17) ³who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, (Psalm 103,3) ¹²as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103,12) ³⁴And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” (Jeremiah 31,34) ¹⁹He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7,19) ¹⁸“Come now, let us reason together, says

the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. (Isaiah 1,18) ²²I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. (Isaiah 44,22) ¹⁰Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.” (John 8,10-11) ⁵And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” ⁶Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷“Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ⁸And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? ¹⁰But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” — he said to the paralytic — ¹¹“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” ¹²And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!” (Mark 2,5-12) ¹³Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” (Matthew 9,13) ⁴⁷If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. (John 12,47) ³⁴And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” [b] And they cast lots to divide his garments. (Luke 23,34) ⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5,6-8)

⁵And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. (Genesis 45,5)

Saith the Lord

¹⁴Si vous pardonnez aux hommes leurs offenses, votre Père céleste vous pardonnera aussi; (Matthieu 6,14)

³⁷Ne jugez point, et vous ne serez point jugés; ne condamnez point, et vous ne serez point condamnés; absolvez, et vous serez absous. (Luc 6,37)

⁴pardonne-nous nos péchés, car nous aussi nous pardonnons à quiconque nous offense; et ne nous induis pas en tentation. (Luc 11,4)

²²Jésus lui dit: Je ne te dis pas jusqu'à sept fois, mais jusqu'à septante fois sept fois. (Matthieu 18,22) ⁴Et s'il a péché contre toi sept fois dans un jour et que sept fois il revienne à toi, disant: Je me repens, -tu lui pardonneras. (Luc 17,4)

³¹Que toute amertume, toute animosité, toute colère, toute clameur, toute calomnie, et toute espèce de méchanceté, disparaissent du milieu de vous. (Éphésiens 4,31) ²et marchez dans la charité, à l'exemple de Christ, qui nous a aimés, et qui s'est livré lui-même à Dieu pour nous comme une offrande et un sacrifice de bonne odeur. (Éphésiens 5,2)

6. TO BEAR PATIENTLY THOSE WHO WRONG US

Who patiently endures the troublesomes is similar to

¹¹Whom did you dread and fear, so that you lied, and did not remember me, did not lay it to heart? Have I not held my peace, even for a long time, and you do not fear me? (Isaiah 57,11) ⁷Should this be said, O house of Jacob? Has the LORD grown impatient? Are these his deeds? Do not my words do good to him who walks uprightly? (Micah 2,7) ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, [a] not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (2 Peter 3,9) ⁵May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ. (2 Thessalonians 3,5) ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. (James 5,10)

¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. (James 5,11)

Saith the Lord

¹⁴Woe to you who have lost your endurance! What will you do when the Lord punishes you? (Sirach 2,14)

³For you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1,3-4)

¹We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. (Romans 15,1)

⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13,7)

7. TO PRAY FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

Who prays to God for the living and the dead is similar to

⁹I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ²⁰⁶I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word (John 17,9.20)

³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. (Romans 8,34) ¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not

have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4,14-15) ²⁶For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. (Hebrews 7,26)

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8,26-27)

²³Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?” ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” ²⁶And the LORD said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.” ²⁷Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes.” ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” ²⁹Again he spoke to him and said, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” ³⁰Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” ³¹He said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” ³²Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.” (Genesis 18,23-32) ⁷Now then, return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, so that he will pray for you, and you shall live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.” (Genesis 20,7)

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, ‘With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will

give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.” (Exodus 32,11-14) ⁸And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. ⁹And he said, “If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.” (Exodus 34,8-9)

¹This is what the Lord GOD showed me: behold, he was forming locusts when the latter growth was just beginning to sprout, and behold, it was the latter growth after the king's mowings. ²When they had finished eating the grass of the land, I said, “O Lord GOD, please forgive! How can Jacob stand? He is so small!” ³The LORD relented concerning this: “It shall not be,” said the LORD. ⁴This is what the Lord GOD showed me: behold, the Lord GOD was calling for a judgment by fire, and it devoured the great deep and was eating up the land. ⁵Then I said, “O Lord GOD, please cease! How can Jacob stand? He is so small!” ⁶The LORD relented concerning this: “This also shall not be,” said the Lord GOD. (Amos 7,1-6)

⁴It may be that the LORD your God heard all the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that the LORD your God has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left.” (2 King 19,4)

²and said to Jeremiah the prophet, “Let our plea for mercy come before you, and pray to the LORD your God for us, for all this remnant — because we are left with but a few, as your eyes see us — ³that the LORD your God may show us the way we should go, and the thing that we should do.” ⁴Jeremiah the prophet said to them, “I have heard you. Behold, I will pray to the LORD your God according to your request, and whatever the LORD answers you I will tell you. I will keep nothing back from you.” (Jeremiah 42,2-4)

⁶Let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. (Nehemiah 1,6)

⁴²And they begged him that this sin might be completely blotted out. Then, Judas, that great man, urged the people to keep away from sin, because they had seen for themselves what had happened to those men who had sinned. ⁴³He also took up a collection from all his men, totaling about four pounds of silver, and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin offering. Judas did this noble thing because he believed in the resurrection of the dead. ⁴⁴If he had not believed that the dead would be raised, it would have been foolish and useless to pray for them. ⁴⁵In his firm and devout conviction that all of God's faithful people would receive a wonderful reward, Judas made provision for a sin offering to set free from their sin those who had died. (2 Maccabees 12, 42-45)

³When the officer heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to ask him to come and heal his servant. (Luke 7,3)

⁴¹Then a man named Jairus arrived; he was an official in the local synagogue. He threw himself down at Jesus' feet and begged him to go to his home, ⁴²because his only daughter, who was twelve years old, was dying. As Jesus went along, the people were crowding him from every side. (Luke 8,41-42)

³⁸A man shouted from the crowd, “Teacher! I beg you, look at my son—my only son! (Luke 9,38)

¹³and shouted, “Jesus! Master! Have pity on us!” (Luke 17,13)

²⁸And Peter said, “See, we have left our homes and followed you.” (Luke 18,28)

²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. (Mark 7,26)

⁴²And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” (Luke 23,42)...

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, (Philippians 1,3-4)

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, (Colossians 1,3)

¹¹To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power. (2 Thessalonians 1,11)

⁹For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. Your restoration is what we pray for. (2 Corinthians 13,9)

Saith the Lord

⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, (Matthew 5,44)

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. (1 Timothy 2,1-2)

¹⁸Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, (Ephesians 6,18)

¹³Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (James 5,13-16)

SPAZIO†SPADONI

Spazio Spadoni was established on 11 September 2020 to foster creative collaboration between people with interests and experience in volunteerism and social commitment and female religious organizations that have social, community, and humanitarian experiences in third world countries, particularly in Africa, South America and Asia. A sense of mission is the common theme that connects all projects of Spazio Spadoni. To make this virtuous process sustainable, Spazio Spadoni supports existing missionary organizations involved in works of mercy and promotes new initiatives and activities to nourish the rediscovery of volunteers and support their interest in missionary experiences.

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