

## “Mercy Came a Runnin’ (4): The Two Word Prayer”

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- The prayer of Al Capone: “My Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.”
- Four stories, two words, one prayer: “ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ .”
- When should we pray this prayer?
  - ◆ Story #1 (Matthew 9:27-34)—when you cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ .
    - “Never does that kindly face and that arm of strength turn from the supplicating hands that are stretched out for mercy.” (2 SP 269)
  - ◆ Story #2 (Matthew 15:21-28)—when you cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ .
    - Philip Yancey : “Was God, so quick to concede each point, actually looking for an advocate, a human being bold enough to express God’s own deepest instinct of mercy?” “God invites argument and struggle, and often yields, especially when the point of contention is God’s mercy. ‘Prayer is not overcoming God’s reluctance,’ writes Archbishop Trench; ‘it is laying hold of his highest willingness.’” (*Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?* 91, 95)
  - ◆ Story #3 (Matthew 17:14-16; Mark 9:20-27)—when you cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ .
    - C. S. Lewis: “The prayer preceding all prayers is ‘May it be the real I who speaks. May it be the real Thou that I speak to.’” (*Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer* 109)
    - “Prayer invites me to lower defenses and present the self that no other person fully knows to a God who already knows.” (Yancey, 30)
  - ◆ Story #4 (Matthew 20:29-34)—when you cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ .
    - Anna Nicole Smith
    - Frederick W. Faber: “There’s a wideness in God’s mercy, like the wideness of the sea; there’s a kindness in his justice, which is more than liberty. For the love of God is broader than the measure of man’s mind, and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.”
    - Luke 18:9-14

“Have mercy on me, O God”

*Psalm 51*

Mercy, Have, mercy, -hold, helped, -lieve, heard