

Commentary on the Gospel for Fri, Jul 6th 2018

WHAT I WANT IS MERCY, NOT SACRIFICE

Pope Francis' papal motto, "miserando atque eligendo" is based on St. Bede's homily on the feast day of St. Matthew. St. Bede writes that upon seeing him with compassion, Jesus calls Matthew to follow him.

God's mercy is the central theme of Pope Francis' papacy. In *Evangelii Gaudium* he articulated his vision for the church, that it be a place "where mercy is freely given." Elsewhere he explains that mercy is the very definition of God. Though the Jubilee Year of Mercy is over, we pray we all witness to God's mercy. As Christians, may mercy be our name.

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