



BECOMING AN AGENT OF GOD'S MERCY

Mercy - Part 6
Pastor Craig Coulter

"You will be my witnesses" - Jesus (Acts 1:8 NIV)

IN A MEAN WORLD, OUR GREATEST WITNESS IS SHOWING MERCY.

Show mercy to others, just as your Father shows mercy to you! (Luke 6:36)

HOW CAN I BE MORE MERCIFUL?

1. START LOOKING FOR PEOPLE'S NEEDS.

LOOK OUT for one another's interests, not just for your own. (Philippians 2:4 TEV)

Jesus looked at him and loved him. (Mark 10:21 NIV)

2. DON'T BE OFFENDED BY THEIR SINS.

Show mercy to those whose faith is wavering. Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgment. There are still others to whom you need to show mercy but be careful that you aren't contaminated by their sins. (Jude 1:22-23 NLT)

Most importantly, love each other deeply. Love has a way of not looking at others' sins. (1 Peter 4:8 ICB)

Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. (Ephesians 4:2b LB)

Principle: Don't expect unbelievers to act like believers...**until they are.**

That night Matthew invited Jesus to dinner with his fellow tax collectors and many other 'notorious sinners.' The Pharisees were indignant. "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?" they asked. When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do!" Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to be merciful, not offer sacrifices!' For I've come to invite sinners to me, not those who think they are righteous." (Matthew 9:10-13)

3. VALUE SAVING PEOPLE – OVER KEEPING RULES.

You Pharisees are careful to tithe 10% of every part of your income, but then you ignore other important matters of God's Law—justice, and showing mercy, and faith. Yes, you should tithe! But you also shouldn't neglect the more important things! (Matthew 23:23)

PLACES TO BE AN AGENT OF MERCY

1. LOOK FOR PEOPLE IN A CRISIS.

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2 NIV)

2. LOOK FOR PEOPLE WITH UNMET NEEDS – AND HELP THEM.

Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?" That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding people's troubles, but he waded right in and helped out. (Romans 15:2-3 MSG)

3. LOOK FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE GRIEVING – AND COMFORT THEM.

God comforts us in our troubles, so that we can comfort others who are in trouble with the same comfort that we ourselves received from God. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

4. LOOK FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED A FRIEND – AND BE ONE.

I was alone and you welcomed me and showed me hospitality. (See Matthew 25:31-46)

5. LOOK FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED A SECOND CHANCE – AND GIVE IT TO THEM.

When people sin, you should forgive and comfort them, so they won't give up in despair. (2 Corinthians 2:7 CEV)

6. LOOK FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE RUDE – AND BE KIND TO THEM.

Don't repay evil for evil. Never retaliate when people insult you or say unkind things about you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God wants you to do, and he will bless you for it! (1 Peter 3:9 NLT)

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