

BEING AN AGENT OF MERCY IN THE WORLD

The Miracle of Mercy – Part 7

May 28, 2017

Acts 1:8b (NIV) “...and you will be My witnesses...”

In a mean world, our greatest witness is showing mercy.

Luke 6:36 (NIV) “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

PRINCIPLES OF MERCY

1. Start looking and listening for people’s needs.

Philippians 2:4 (TEV) “Look out for one another’s interests, not just for your own.”

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

2. Don’t be offended by their sins.

Jude 22-23 (NLT) “And you must show mercy to those whose faith is wavering. ²³ Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgment. Show mercy to still others, but do so with great caution, hating the sins that contaminate their lives.”

1 Peter 4:8 (NIV) “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”

Ephesians 4:2 (NLT) “Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love.”

Matthew 9:10-13 (NLT) “Later, Matthew invited Jesus and His disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. ¹¹ But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with such scum?’ ¹² When Jesus heard this, He said, ‘Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do.’ ¹³ Then He added, ‘Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’ For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”

3. Choose your words carefully.

Colossians 4:6 (NCV) “When you talk, you should always be kind and pleasant so you will be able to answer everyone in the way you should.”

James 3:17 (NIV) “But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.”

4. Value saving people over keeping rules.

Matthew 23:23 (NLT) *“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.”*

PLACES TO BE AN AGENT OF MERCY

1. Look for people in a crisis and listen to them.

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

2. Look for people with unmet needs and help them.

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

3. Look for people who are grieving and comfort them.

2 Corinthians 1:3b-4 (NLT) *“God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort.⁴ He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.”*

4. Look for people needing friends and show hospitality.

Romans 12:13 (NIV) *“Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”*

Matthew 25:40 (NIV) *“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me.’”*

5. Look for people who need a second chance.

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

6. Look for people who are rude.

1 Peter 3:9 (NLT) *“Don’t repay evil for evil. Don’t retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and He will grant you His blessing.”*

Matthew 5:7 (NIV) *“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”*