

# THE MIRACLE OF MERCY

## *Part 6 - Using Every Opportunity to be Merciful*

So be very careful how you live. Live wisely, not like fools. <sup>16</sup> I mean that you should use every opportunity you have for doing good, because these are evil times. <sup>17</sup> So don't be foolish with your lives, but learn what the Lord wants you to do.  
**Ephesians 5:15-17 (ERV)**

## IN A MEAN WORLD, OUR GREATEST WITNESS IS

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

### PRINCIPLES OF MERCY

*How can I be more merciful?*

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"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. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"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 ...

*"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 (NLT)**

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"When you talk, you should always be kind and pleasant so you will be able to answer everyone in the way you should."* **Colossians 4:6 (NCV)**

*"The wisdom that comes from heaven is pure, peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. Wisdom is full of mercy . . ."*  
**James 3:17 (NLT)**

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
• **Jesus defended his disciples eating grain on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:1-8)**

*"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**

## OPPORTUNITIES TO BE AN AGENT OF MERCY

1. LOOK FOR PEOPLE \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."*  
**Galatians 6:2 (NIV)**

2. LOOK FOR PEOPLE \_\_\_\_\_  
*"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 (Mes)**

3. LOOK FOR PEOPLE \_\_\_\_\_  
*"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 \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Look for opportunities to be hospitable."* **Romans 12:13b (NJB)**

*"I was alone and you welcomed me and showed me hospitality."*  
**Matthew 25:35b**

5. LOOK FOR PEOPLE \_\_\_\_\_  
*"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 \_\_\_\_\_  
*"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)**

*"God will not forget the work you've done and the love you've shown him by caring for and helping other people."* **Hebrews 6:10b**

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