

**THE MIRACLE OF MERCY**  
**Part 4: Being an Agent of Mercy in the World**

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

*“You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate” (Luke 6:36 NLT).*

**PRINCIPLES OF MERCY: How Can I Be More Merciful?**

**1. Start Looking and Listening for People’s Needs**

*“Look out for one another’s interests, not just for you 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!**

*“As Jesus and His disciples were eating dinner (at Matthew’s house), there were many notorious swindlers there as guests! The Pharisees were indignant. ‘Why does your teacher associate with men like that?’ ‘Because people who are well don’t need a doctor! It is the sick people who do!’ was Jesus’ reply. Then He added, ‘Now go away and learn the meaning of this verse of Scripture: ‘It isn’t your sacrifices and your gifts I want – I want you to be merciful’” (Matthew 9:10-13 LB).*

**3. Choose My Words Carefully**

*“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. Value Saving People Over Keeping Rules**

*“You Pharisees are careful to tithe even the tiniest part of your income, but you ignore the more important things of the law – justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but you should not leave undone the more important things” (Matthew 23:23 NLT).*

**PLACES TO BE AN AGENT OF MERCY**

**1. Look for People in a Crises and Listen to Them!**

*“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!**

*“He comforts us in our troubles so that we can comfort others” (2 Corinthians 1:4 NLT).*

**4. Look for People Needing Friends and Show Hospitality**

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

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**5. Look for People Who Need a Second Chance**

*“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).*

***“(God) will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped His people and continue to help them” (Hebrews 6:10 NIV).***