

# Being an agent of mercy

Luke 6:36 "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

Luke tells us Jesus was looking at his disciples when he spoke these words. Mercy was an important ministry to Jesus. There are very practical ways to live out his message provided by the examples from how he lived his life. The four principles of mercy shown by Jesus are: 1. Start looking and listening for other people's needs; 2. Don't be offended by their sins; 3. Choose your words carefully; and 4. Value saving people over keeping rules.

When you show mercy to other people, it is an act of worship. Showing mercy builds fellowship. It is a ministry to other people. You become more like Jesus. The world is against Christians. When the world has beaten us up all week long, what a blessing to come into the sanctuary and receive mercy. The world is becoming self-serving and focused on "me." We are recipients of God's mercy and we are to be his agents of mercy to others. Have a Christian heart this Christmas and be an agent of mercy.

Start looking and listening for other people's needs. Agents of mercy are aware. They look and listen for the needs of others. Philippians 2:4 "Look out for others interests not just your own." Look for people 1) in crisis; 2) in need; 3) in grief; 4) in need of friends; and 5) in need of a second chance.

Don't be offended by their sins. An agent of mercy can't be offended by their sin. Grace and mercy are unconditional love. Jesus wasn't offended by the sins of the people he ministered to. There were thieves, prostitutes, murderers, and tax collec-

**"Be still and know that I am God."**

-PSALM 46:10

THE REV. RANDALL WOODARD



tors. We need to call the sin a sin but not let it make the sinner unacceptable to our grace and mercy and the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ. Accept them as a person. Don't tell them to clean their life up and come to Jesus. Tell them to come to Jesus and he will help them clean their life up. The sinner may deny you and your God, but an agent of mercy cannot deny the sinner. 1 Peter 4:8 "Love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." Love has a way of looking at the person, and not the sin. What better way to become more like Jesus than to answer his calling to look past their sins? Ephesians 4:2 "Be patient with each other making allowances for each other's faults." In a nut shell, don't expect unbelievers to act like believers until they are. When they are, walk with them.

Choose your words carefully. Colossians 4:6 "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." You are never persuasive when you are abrasive. In today's world people often pick the most public places to be abrasive. Ephesians 4:29 "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs that it may benefit those who lis-

ten." You may at times need to get somewhere alone with Jesus to confess your weakness with words and ask his wisdom and help to come into your heart and teach you the feelings and the words to show other people mercy. You can be an agent of mercy without accepting or approving what they say and do. The Lord gives to you freely. Learn to give to others freely.

Value saving people over keeping rules. Jesus is much better at cleansing people than we are at bringing them to the cross. Matthew 23:23 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices - mint, dill and cummin. But, you have neglected the more important matters of the law - justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former." These are the words of Jesus.

There are five places we can be agents of mercy: 1. Look for people in crisis and show support; 2. Look for people with unmet needs and help them; 3. Look for people who are grieving and comfort them; 4. Look for people who need friends and show hospitality; and 5. Look for people who need a second chance and guide them to an opportunity.

Being an agent of mercy requires taking the four principles out of the sanctuary and into the five places where people need mercy. Pray, "Lord, take me into the places needing mercy and make me into an agent of mercy."

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# Peace

**"This is the day the Lord has made."**

-PSALM 118:24

PASTOR DR. WALLACE PHILLIPS



words fueled expectancy and anticipation for an answer to all this conflict, chaos, and confusion. And little did they know that it would 700 years before that prophesied Messiah would arrive, but he did; one starry night in Bethlehem. I've been there many times as a pastor and have so enjoyed the times of reflection on Isaiah's prophecy and God's faithful fulfillment.

And, in all reality, the conflict still exists, but the story is not over. The Prince of Peace came for the first time in that manger of hay; and the reality is that he will come a second time. Then and only then will Israel and all

the world know true peace as the Prince of Peace comes!

In the meantime, the only sense of any peace in this life is to receive that manger-born Messiah, Jesus into your heart and life. Have you? If not, will you? I have enjoyed inner peace for years as I have served the Lord. My life has purpose and value and when conflict, chaos, and confusion tries to come, I place my confidence in the Prince of Peace. And just like He was faithful to arrive as Isaiah prophesied, He is always faithful to show himself mighty and strong in my behalf. Trust him today for true peace in your life. If you don't have a place of worship, join us at Carpenter's Shop International Church in Ahoskie, or online at [csicministries.com](http://csicministries.com).

Pastor Wallace Phillips is Senior Pastor of Carpenter's Shop International Church in Ahoskie. He can be reached at [csicministries.com](http://csicministries.com).

There was tremendous conflict, chaos, and confusion going on in the nation of Israel and the Middle East. It seems like that's the norm. At this point in biblical history, the Kingdom was divided; the Northern Kingdom had been carried away into captivity and the Southern Kingdom of Judah was still in the midst of idolatry and evil.

There are many questions, but perhaps the greatest was this - How will God's chosen people survive? Assyria is on the scene and Babylon is like a batter on deck that would soon be a major threat to this nation.

It's 700+ years before the time of Christ and the thundering voice of Isaiah the prophet speaks "...For to us a child is born; to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6 NIV)

The great prophet Isaiah's

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.

Genesis 9:16

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## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Ezra in the Old or New Testament or neither?
  2. From Daniel 4, who had the vision of a tree growing higher and higher until it could be seen by everyone? *Silas, Josiah, Nebuchadnezzar, Solomon*
  3. Which Book could be summarized, "God, why don't you stop bad things from happening?" *Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Malachi*
  4. What hour mentioned in the Bible means the last possible moment something can be done? *1st, 3rd, 11th, 12th*
  5. From Judges 6, where did Gideon encounter an angel? *Prison, Oak tree, Temple, Well*
  6. What was Adam's occupation in Eden? *Preacher, Shepherd, Carpenter, Gardener*
- ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Nebuchadnezzar; 3) Habakkuk; 4) 11th; 5) Oak tree; 6) Gardener
- Comments? More Trivia? Visit [www.TriviaGuy.com](http://www.TriviaGuy.com)

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# Special Events

Church announcements are published each week in the Bertie Ledger-Advance. The deadline to submit news items for this listing is 10 a.m. each Monday. Submissions may be emailed to [twhite@ncweeklies.com](mailto:twhite@ncweeklies.com).

## June 2

### Dinner Sale

**POWELLSVILLE** - The Shepherd's Crew of First Missionary Baptist Church of Powellsville will have a dinner sale beginning at noon on Friday, June 2 at the church. Plates will consist of fish, baked spaghetti, meatloaf or pig feet along with string beans, coleslaw or potato salad, bread and dessert. Plates are \$8. For more information, call 252-333-5117 or 252-287-4820.

### One Night Crusade

**POWELLSVILLE** - A One Night Crusade is planned for 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 2 at First Missionary Baptist Church of Powellsville. The guest speaker will be Brian Carn of Charlotte. The Pastor, the Rev. Akeem Z. Walker, and congregation invite the public to attend.

## June 4

### Emphasis Day

**POWELLSVILLE** - Men and Women Emphasis Day will be observed at 11 a.m. Sunday, June 4 at First Baptist Missionary Church of Powellsville. The guest speakers will be Dr. Angerina L. Jones of Mount Chesapeake and Pastor James McLaughlin of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Petersburg, Va. Music will be provided by Community Voices under the direction of Minister Travis Gatling. The Pastor, Akeem Z. Walker, and congregation invite the public to attend.

### Pentecost Sunday

**ASKEWVILLE** - Pentecost Sunday will be observed Sunday, June 4 at Askeville Assembly of God. Evangelist Dudley Smith will be the guest speaker at both the 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. services. Smith used to sing with Jimmy Swaggart Ministries. The church is located at 105 Askeville Bryant St. in Askeville. The Pastor, the Rev. R.O. Denton Jr., and congregation invite the public to attend.

## June 11

### Gospel Sing

**COLERAIN** - Brian Free & Assurance will be in gospel concert at 6 p.m. Sunday, June 11 at Colerain Baptist Church. An offering will be taken. The congregation invites the public to attend.

### Men's Day

**MERRY HILL** - The annual Men's Day Worship Service is planned for 11 a.m. Sunday, June 11 at Peterson Chapel Baptist Church. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Melvin Cotton Jr. of New Genesis Baptist Church in Virginia Beach, Va. Spiritual selections will be rendered by Bruce Watford and Group. The church is located at 514 Avoca Farm Rd. in Merry Hill. The congregation invites the public to attend.

## June 12-16

### Vacation Bible School

**MERRY HILL** - Vacation Bible School is planned from June 12-16 at Peterson Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Classes begin at 6 p.m. nightly. There will be a light meal after the Biblical teachings each night. Adults' and children's classes are planned. The church is located at 514 Avoca Farm Rd. in Merry Hill. The congregation invites the public to attend.

## June 13-25

### Camp Meeting

**WINDSOR** - Summer Camp Meeting is planned June 13-25 at the Eastern North Carolina Assemblies of God Camp Ground on Cooper Hill Road in Windsor. Services will begin at 7:30 p.m. each night except Sundays (June 18 and 25), when services start at 7 p.m. The guest speaker June 13-18 will be Evangelist Dudley Smith of Dudley Smith Ministries. The speaker June 19-25 will be Pastor Johnny Chase.

As part of the Summer Camp, there will be a Children's Crusade from June 18-23. The Crusade will be "Land of Odd."

Children will come to camp meeting before being dismissed to the children's crusade. The congregations of the Assemblies of God churches invite the public to attend.

## July 16-19

### Vacation Bible School

**WINDSOR** - Vacation Bible School will be held July 16-19 at Ross Baptist Church. The theme will be "Galactic Starveyors Vacation Bible School." The classes will begin at 6:30 p.m. each evening. The church is located at 1020 Bull Hill Rd. in Windsor. The Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Russell, and congregation invite the public to attend.

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