

EASTER MEANS IT'S A NEW DAY OF MERCY

The Miracle of Mercy
Rick Warren

"Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. . . Then the angel spoke to the women. . . 'He is risen.'" Matthew 28:1, 5-6 (NLT)

"A new day will dawn on us from above because our God is loving and merciful."
Luke 1:78 (GW)

MERCY: undeserved forgiveness & unearned kindness

WHEN DO I NEED GOD'S MERCY? WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ACCEPT IT?

1. A HUMILIATED WOMAN: JOHN 8:2-11

"Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?"

John 8:2-5 (ESV)

"They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, 'All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!' Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, 'Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?' 'No, Lord,' she said. And Jesus said, 'Neither do I. Go and sin no more.'" John 8:6-11 (NLT)

- **GOD'S MERCY** _____
"He has sent me . . . to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners." Isaiah 61:1 (NIV)

Jesus: *"I have come to save the world and not to judge it."*

John 12:47 (TLB)

"O Lord, you are so good and kind, so ready to forgive, so full of mercy for all who ask your aid." Psalm 86:5 (TLB)

"Jesus understands every weakness of ours, because he was tempted in every way that we are. But he did not sin!" Hebrews 4:15 (CEV)

"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)

2. A DISAPPOINTED MAN: JOHN 5:2-9

"Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda, with five covered porches." John 5:2 (NLT)

"Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed." John 5:3 (NIV)

"For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had." John 5:4 (NKJV)

"One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, 'Do you want to get well?' 'Sir,' the invalid replied, 'I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.' At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked." John 5:5-9 (NIV)

- **GOD'S MERCY** _____
"What is impossible with man is possible with God." Luke 18:27 (NIV)

"As you know him better, he will give you, through his great power, everything you need for living a truly good life." 2 Peter 1:3 (TLB)

3. A DYING MAN: LUKE 23:39-43

"One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: 'Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other criminal rebuked him. 'Don't you fear God,' he said, 'since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' Jesus answered him, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.'" Luke 23:39-43 (NIV)

- **GOD'S MERCY** _____

Jesus: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die." John 11:25 (GNT)

"Anyone who asks for mercy from the Lord shall have it and shall be saved."
Acts 2:21 (TLB)

*"The LORD God is waiting to show how kind he is and to have pity on you.
The LORD always does right; he blesses those who trust him."*
Isaiah 30:18 (CEV)

A PRAYER TO RECEIVE GOD'S MERCY

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GOD CAN USE ANYBODY

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"Give yourselves completely to God—every part of you—for you are back from death and you want to be tools in the hands of God, to be used for his good purposes."
Romans 6:13 (TLB)

"Instead, give yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life, and surrender your whole being to him to be used for righteous purposes."
Romans 6:13 (GNT)

PAUL'S SECRETS OF STAYING USABLE

2 Corinthians 4:1-18

1. God in his mercy has given us this work to do, and so we do not become discouraged." 2 Corinthians 4:1 (GNT)

"It is God himself, in his mercy, who has given us this wonderful work of telling his Good News to others, and so we never give up." 2 Corinthians 4:1 (TLB)

MERCY: undeserved forgiveness & unearned kindness

"You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I went after the Christians mercilessly, hunting them down and doing my best to get rid of them all. . . . But then something happened! For even before I was born, God had chosen me to be his and called me—what kindness and grace."
Galatians 1:13, 15 (TLB)

"It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others." Ephesians 2:10 (TLB)

2. We don't try to trick anyone or distort the word of God." 2 Corinthians 4:2 (NLT)

"We teach the truth plainly, showing everyone who we are. Then they can know in their hearts what kind of people we are in God's sight."
2 Corinthians 4:2 (NCV)

"The Spirit we received does not make us slaves again to fear; it makes us children of God." Romans 8:15 (NCV)

3. Our message is not about ourselves. It is about Jesus Christ as the Lord. We are your servants for his sake." 2 Corinthians 4:5 (GW)

"We are like clay jars in which this treasure is stored. The real power comes from God and not from us." 2 Corinthians 4:7 (CEV)

4. We often suffer, but we are never crushed. Even when we don't know what to do, we never give up. In times of trouble, God is with us, and when we are knocked down, we get up again." 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (CEV)

"These sufferings of ours are for your benefit. And the more of you who are won to Christ, the more there are to thank him for his great kindness, and the more the Lord is glorified." 2 Corinthians 4:15 (TLB)

"That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!"
2 Corinthians 4:16-17 (NLT)

5. These little troubles are getting us ready for an eternal glory that will make all our troubles seem like nothing." 2 Corinthians 4:17 (CEV)

"So we do not look at what we can see right now, the troubles all around us, but we look forward to the joys in heaven which we have not yet seen. The troubles will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever."

2 Corinthians 4:18 (TLB)

THE KEY TO STAYING FOCUSED: _____

"A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken."
Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT)

Jesus: *"For wherever two or three come together in my name, I will be there with them."* Matthew 18:20 (NIV)

Jesus: *"For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them."*
Matthew 18:20 (GNT)

**Do you want your life to be used by God?
Are you ready to experience the Miracle of Mercy?**

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GOD'S MERCY AND MY FAILURES

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WHAT CAUSES OUR PERSONAL FAILURES?

3 Things Peter Did Wrong

1.

"On the way, Jesus told them, 'Tonight all of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say, 'God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I have been raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there.' Peter declared, 'Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you.' Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.' 'No!' Peter insisted. 'Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!' And all the other disciples vowed the same." Matthew 26:31-35 (NIV)

"Even if you think you can stand up to temptation, be careful not to fall."
1 Corinthians 10:12 (ESV)

2.

"Meanwhile, Peter followed him at a distance and came to the high priest's courtyard. He went in and sat with the guards and waited to see how it would all end." Matthew 26:58 (NLT)

"Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard when one of the High Priest's servant women came to him and said, 'You, too, were with Jesus of Galilee.' But he denied it in front of them all. 'I don't know what you are talking about,' he answered." Matthew 26:69-70 (GNT)

"It is dangerous to be concerned with what others think of you, but if you trust the LORD, you are safe." Proverbs 29:25 (GNT)

3.

"Later, out by the gate, another servant girl noticed him and said to those standing around, 'This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.' Again Peter denied it, this time with an oath. 'I don't even know the man,' he said. A little later some of the other bystanders came over to Peter and said, 'You must be one of them; we can tell by your Galilean accent.' Peter swore. 'A curse on me if I'm lying—I don't know the man!' And immediately the rooster crowed."

Matthew 26:71-74 (NLT)

"The tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do. A great forest can be set on fire by one tiny spark. And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is full of wickedness, and poisons every part of the body. And the tongue is set on fire by hell itself and can turn our whole lives into a blazing flame of destruction and disaster." James 3:5-6 (TLB)

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN I FAIL?

3 Things Peter Did Right

4.

"Peter remembered the words Jesus had spoken, 'Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went outside and wept bitterly."
Matthew 26:75 (CSB)

"My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise." Psalm 51:17 (NIV)

"My sacrifice is a humble spirit, O God; you will not reject a humble and repentant heart." Psalm 51:17 (GNT)

5.

"She went to the disciples, who were grieving and weeping."
Mark 16:10 (NLT)

"On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord."
John 20:19-20 (NIV)

"The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders, and on the evening of that same Sunday they locked themselves in a room. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group." John 20:19 (CEV)

"A week later his disciples were in the house again." John 20:26 (NIV)

6.

"Because of his great mercy he gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope." 1 Peter 1:3 (GNT)

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

WHAT DOES JESUS DO WITH OUR FAILURES?

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers."

Luke 22:31-32 (NLT)

7. _____
“[The LORD] certainly knows what we are made of. He bears in mind that we are dust.” Psalm 103:14 (GW)

8. _____
“Therefore [Jesus] is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.”
Hebrews 7:25 (NLT)

9. _____
“So when you have repented and turned to me again . . .” Luke 22:32 (NLT)

“A righteous person may fall seven times, but he gets up again.”
Proverbs 24:16 (GW)

“The angel said, ‘Don’t be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body. Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died.’” Mark 16:6-7 (NLT)

10. _____
“Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. This is how it happened. Several of the disciples were there—Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples. Simon Peter said, ‘I’m going fishing.’ ‘We’ll come, too,’ they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night. At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn’t see who he was.”
John 21:1-4 (NLT)

“Then [Jesus] asked them, ‘Young men, haven’t you caught anything?’ ‘Not a thing,’ they answered.” John 21:5 (GNT)

“Then he said, ‘Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you’ll get some!’ So they did, and they couldn’t haul in the net because there were so many fish in it. Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It’s the Lord!’ When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore. The others stayed with the boat and pulled the loaded net to the shore, for they were only about a hundred yards from shore. When they got there, they found breakfast waiting for them—fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread. ‘Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught,’ Jesus said. So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore. There were 153 large fish, and yet the net hadn’t torn. ‘Now come and have some breakfast!’ Jesus said. None of the disciples dared to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ They knew it was the Lord. Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish.

This was the third time Jesus had appeared to his disciples since he had been raised from the dead.” John 21:6-14 (NLT)

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”
Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV)

11. _____
“When you turn back to me, you must strengthen your brothers.”
Luke 22:32 (GNT)

“After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ Peter replied, ‘you know I love you.’ ‘Then feed my lambs,’ Jesus told him. Jesus repeated the question: ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ Peter said, ‘you know I love you.’ ‘Then take care of my sheep,’ Jesus said. A third time he asked him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, ‘Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.’ Jesus said, ‘Then feed my sheep.’” John 21:15-17 (NLT)

“Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.”
Matthew 16:18 (NLT)

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HOW MUCH YOU MATTER TO GOD

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"He saved us because of his mercy, and not because of any good things we have done. God washed us by the power of the Holy Spirit. He gave us new birth and a fresh beginning." Titus 3:5 (CEV)

"For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost." Luke 19:10 (NLT)

Jesus told 3 stories to explain what he meant:

"The Lost Sheep" (Luke 15:1-7)

"The Lost Coin" (Luke 15:8-10)

"The Lost Son" (Luke 15:11-31)

'LOSTNESS' _____

WHAT DO I LOSE WHEN I'M SPIRITUALLY "LOST"?

Like a lost sheep . . .

1. I LOSE _____
"All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own." Isaiah 53:6 (NLT)

2. I LOSE _____
"Judah and Israel have been led astray and wander like lost sheep; everyone attacks them, for they have no shepherd to protect them." Zechariah 10:2 (TLB)

Like a lost coin . . .

3. I LOSE _____
"No mere man has ever seen, heard, or even imagined what wonderful things God has ready for those who love the Lord." 1 Corinthians 2:9 (TLB)

Like a lost son . . .

4. I LOSE _____
"He spent everything he had. Then a severe famine spread over that country, and he was left without a thing." Luke 15:14 (GNT)
Our wandering nature separates us from God
Our circumstances can separate us from God
Our choices separate us from God

5. I LOSE _____
"And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?" Matthew 16:26 (NLT)

BUT I DON'T LOSE _____
"God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NCV)

HOW DOES GOD'S MERCY "SAVE" ME?

1. _____
"There is only one God, and Christ Jesus is the only one who can bring us to God. Jesus was truly human, and he gave himself to rescue all of us." 1 Timothy 2:5 (CEV)

"I want you to trust me in your times of trouble, so I can rescue you and you can give me glory." Psalm 50:15 (TLB)

2. _____
Jesus: *"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life." Matthew 11:28 (MSG)*

"I will give you back what you lost in the years when swarms of locusts ate your crops." Joel 2:25 (GNT)

3. _____
"Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new. God has done it all! He sent Christ to make peace between himself and us." 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (CEV)

HOW DO I CONNECT WITH GOD'S MERCY?

1. _____
"He wasted all his money." Luke 15:13 (NLT)
"After he had spent everything . . . [he] was poor and hungry." Luke 15:14 (NCV)
"When he finally came to his senses . . ." Luke 15:17 (TLB)

God: *"When you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed." Jeremiah 29:13 (MSG)*

2. _____
"When he finally came to his senses, he said . . ." Luke 15:17 (TLB)
"Father, I have sinned against God and against you." Luke 15:18 (GNT)

3.

The son drifted away saying: "Father, give me my share." Luke 15:12 (NIV)

He returned to the father saying: "Make me like one of your hired servants."
Luke 15:19 (NIV)

THE FATHER'S RESPONSE

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."
Luke 15:20 (NIV)

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SHOWING MERCY TO YOUR FAMILY

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"I will try to walk a blameless path, but how I need your help, especially in my own home, where I long to act as I should." Psalm 101:2 (TLB)

QUIZ: HOW MERCIFUL AM I WITH MY FAMILY?

When my spouse or sibling or another family member....

o Gets some details wrong while telling a story, do I

- Interrupt them and correct them publicly?
- Say nothing and let it go, knowing I've done the same?

o Keeps making the same mistake over and over, do I

- Become irritated & angry at them?
- Graciously forgive them and pray for them?

o Is getting more attention than I think they deserve, do I

- Feel resentful & feel the need to bring them down a notch?
- Celebrate with them?

o Says or does something I don't understand, do I

- Assume they have the best motivation for doing it?
- Question their motivation or think the worst?

o Am I more polite with _____ strangers OR _____ my own family?

MERCY IS LOVE IN ACTION

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud." 1 Corinthians 13:4 (NIV)

"[Love] is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs." 1 Corinthians 13:5 (CSB)

"Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth." 1 Corinthians 13:6 (NIV)

"Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (CEV)

"[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." 1 Corinthians 13:7-8 (NLT)

"Love never ends." 1 Corinthians 13:8 (ESV)

4 WAYS TO SHOW MERCY AT HOME

1. _____
"[Love] is not irritable." 1 Corinthians 13:5 (NLT)
"[Love] is not easily angered." 1 Corinthians 13:5 (NIV)
"Love forgets mistakes; nagging about them parts the best of friends." Proverbs 17:9 (TLB)
"It is to one's glory to overlook an offense." Proverbs 19:11 (NIV)
"Be careful that when you get on each other's nerves you don't snap at each other. Look for the best in each other, and always do your best to bring it out." 1 Thessalonians 5:15 (MSG)

2. _____
"Love is patient, love is kind." 1 Corinthians 13:4 (NIV)
"Love is always supportive." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (CEV)
"Whenever you are able, do good to people who need help." Proverbs 3:27 (NCV)
"Don't be hateful to people, just because they are hateful to you. Rather, be good to each other and to everyone else." 1 Thessalonians 5:15 (CEV)

3. _____
"[Love] keeps no record of wrongs." 1 Corinthians 13:5 (NIV)
"[Love] is never . . . rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges." 1 Corinthians 13:5 (TLB)

4. _____
"[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (NIV)
"[LORD] hear my prayer for mercy when I call to you for help, when I lift my hands toward your most holy place." Psalm 28:2 (GW)
"I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: . . . Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning." Lamentations 3:20-21, 23 (NLT)
"It is only the Lord's mercies that have kept us from complete destruction. Great is his faithfulness; his loving-kindness begins afresh each day." Lamentations 3:22-23 (TLB)

THESE ARE THE SAME WAYS GOD SHOWS YOU MERCY!

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BEING AN AGENT OF MERCY IN THE WORLD

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

IN A MEAN WORLD, OUR GREATEST WITNESS IS _____

"Show mercy, just as your Father shows mercy." Luke 6:26 (NCV)

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 (GNT)

"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 (NLT96)

"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 (TLB)

Principle: Don't expect unbelievers to act like believers

"That night Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to be his dinner guests, along with his fellow tax collectors and many other notorious sinners. The Pharises were indignant. 'Why does your teacher eat with such scum?' they asked his disciples. When he heard this, Jesus replied, '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; I don't want your sacrifices." For I have come to call sinners, not those who think they are already good enough."

Matthew 9:10-13 (NLT96)

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 from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others." James 3:17 (NLT)

"[Wisdom] is full of mercy." James 3:17 (TLB)

4. _____
Jesus defended his disciples eating grain on the Sabbath. (Matthew 12:1-8)

"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."

Matthew 23:23 (NLT)

PLACES 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 (MSG)

3. LOOK FOR PEOPLE _____
"[God] 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."
2 Corinthians 1:4 (NLT)

4. LOOK FOR PEOPLE _____
"Look for opportunities to be hospitable." Romans 12:13b (NJB)

"When did we see you alone?' . . . Then the King will answer, 'I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me.'"
Matthew 25:38, 40 (NCV)

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. 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.” 1 Peter 3:9 (NLT)

“[God] will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do.”

Hebrews 6:10 (NLT)

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