



## Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

Read Matthew 25:31-46

*"What you do to the least of these, you do to Me."*

### Corporal Works of Mercy:

- 1. Feed the hungry:** Provide food and lobby for policies that will help needy individuals and nations solve their food problems.
- 2. Give drink to the thirsty:** Fight against water pollution; lead the spiritually thirsty to Christ; help the needy pay water bills.
- 3. Clothe the naked:** The naked are all those who are poor. Work to change your culture's mentality about living above income by spending on credit; help end drug and alcohol dependency, gambling and other addictions or behavior that takes money from the poor; teach financial management; help people find jobs.
- 4. Shelter the homeless:** Rather than blaming the victim, get involved in building or restoring houses; work in half-way houses for the mentally ill; pay security deposits on apartments; help with utility bills.
- 5. Visit the sick:** The terminally ill would be less likely to desire euthanasia if we offer them the hope and love of Christ; the suffering need emotional support and faith in God; families under huge medical bills need help raising funds.
- 6. Ransom the captive:** Who is held prisoner by addiction, abuse, a dysfunctional family background, the occult, joblessness, a poor education, prejudice, poverty, hopelessness, sin, ignorance or misconceptions about God? Help them find a way out. Visit prison inmates.
- 7. Bury the dead:** Provide comfort for the bereaving; help the widow(er) with meals or activities; stay involved long after the funeral; be sensitive to the pain of loss.

### Spiritual Works of Mercy:

- 1. Instruct the ignorant:** Teach the meaning of the Gospel and the spiritual implications of it for our lives; lift people from spiritual poverty; be an example of true Christian living.
- 2. Counsel the doubtful:** Society teaches doubt of God, skepticism, loss of confidence; live your faith in a way that witnesses to the reality of God.
- 3. Admonish the sinner:** Our world tries to remove "sin" from our vocabulary; in whatever you do, firmly but compassionately object to social and personal sin; take a stand against injustices.
- 4. Bear wrongs patiently:** Jesus is our example; bear wrongs with dignity, patience, and conviction that God stands by us, as a witness that suffering can lead to spiritual growth.
- 5. Forgive offenses:** Peace and justice don't work if they're only attempted through legislation. Promote inner conversion and outward forgiveness, first in your own life and then help others discover the same.
- 6. Comfort the afflicted:** Walk with people through their pain. We give them relief by our presence, our prayers, and our loving deeds.
- 7. Intercede for the needs of others:** Pray for loved ones, relatives, friends, neighbors, fellow church members, the souls in Purgatory, leaders, the nation, our world, etc. This motivates us in other ways of ministering.