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He was sensitive.

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His Authentic Conduct

He accepted His Father's mission.

He embraced His Father's values.

He followed his Father's vision.

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He overcame a lack of engagement.

He overcame a lack of investment.

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He acknowledged the present.

He considered the future.

He addressed the past.

BE ENGAGED

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FINAL THOUGHTS

[Psalm 51:1](#)

- [1] Hebrew *chêsêd* <https://studylight.org/lexicons/eng/hebrew/2617.html>
 [2] Greek *éleos* <https://studylight.org/lexicons/eng/greek/1656.html>

These terms are usually rendered as mercy, kindness, lovingkindness or goodness.
 They refer to an unearned kindness that is motivated by love.

[Psalm 63:3](#)[1 Peter 1:3](#)

- [3] Hebrew *racham* <https://studylight.org/lexicons/eng/hebrew/7356.html>
 [4s] Greek *splánchnon* <https://studylight.org/lexicons/eng/greek/4698.html>
 [4o] *oiktirmós* <https://studylight.org/lexicons/eng/greek/3628.html>

These terms are usually rendered as compassion or compassionate.
 They refer to a tender love and empathy.

[Psalm 18:1](#)[Philippians 2:1-2](#)[Colossians 3:12](#)

- [5] Hebrew *chânan* <https://studylight.org/lexicons/eng/hebrew/2603.html>
 [6] Greek *châris* <https://studylight.org/lexicons/eng/greek/5485.html>

These terms are usually rendered as grace, gracious, favor or pity.
 They refer to a kind response to a cry for help.

[Psalm 27:7](#)[Proverbs 3:3-4](#)[James 4:6](#)

- [7] Hebrew *tsedâqâh* <https://studylight.org/lexicons/eng/hebrew/6666.html>
 [8] Greek *dikaíosýnē* <https://studylight.org/lexicons/eng/greek/1343.html>

These terms usually rendered as righteousness or justice.
 They refer to a God-approved effort to make something right.

[Genesis 15:6](#)[Romans 4:3](#)[Proverbs 21:21](#)[1 John 3:7](#)

An *Open Hands* working definition for mercy:

to kindly and selflessly help someone in need

SERMON

Christian Charity: The Duty of Charity to the Poor Explained and Enforced (1732)

By Jonathan Edwards

<https://www.apuritansmind.com/puritan-favorites/jonathan-edwards/sermons/christian-charity/>

THE MISSION STATEMENT

It is our absolute and inescapable duty to show mercy. We must willingly and bountifully give of ourselves to care for the unfortunate and needy.

KEY TEXT

[Deuteronomy 15:7-11](#)

OUR DUTY

[Leviticus 25:35-38](#)

[Micah 6:8](#)

[James 1:27](#)

[Matthew 23:23](#)

[Hosea 6:6](#)

[Deuteronomy 15:9](#)

WILLINGLY

[2 Corinthians 9:7](#)

[Hebrews 13:16](#)

[Psalm 112:1](#)

BOUNTIFULLY

[Psalm 13:5-6](#)

[Luke 21:1-4](#)

[2 Corinthians 9:6-8](#)

CARE

[Isaiah 40:11](#)

[Ezekiel 34:11-16](#)

[Luke 6:32-35](#)

[Proverbs 29:7](#)

BECAUSE OF NECESSITY

[Romans 15:1-2](#)

BECAUSE OF JUSTICE

[Psalms 36:5-10](#)

[Hosea 10:12](#)

BECAUSE OF BEAUTY

[Proverbs 3:3-4](#)

[Matthew 7:12](#)

[Luke 6:31](#)

BECAUSE OF EMPATHY

[1 Peter 3:8](#)

BECAUSE OF GRATITUDE

[John 14:27](#)

[James 1:17](#)

[2 Corinthians 8:9](#)

[2 Corinthians 9:11-13](#)

BECAUSE OF LOVE

[1 John 4:7-11](#)

[1 John 4:19-21](#)

[Matthew 22:36-40](#)

BECAUSE OF MERCY

[Matthew 14:14](#)

[Matthew 14:14 \(Wycliffe\)](#)

[Psalms 51:1](#)

CREATOR

[Psalm 145:8-9](#), [Proverbs 14:31](#)

AS CREATOR, HE DESIGNS ...

[1 Corinthians 3:9-10](#)
[Hebrews 11:1](#)
[Galatians 5:6](#)

AS CREATOR, HE CRAFTS ...

[Ephesians 2:8-10](#)
[Philippians 1:6](#)
[Psalm 138:8](#)
[Psalm 143:1-5](#)
[Psalm 37:4](#)
[Psalm 37:23-24](#)

AS CREATOR, HE AUTHORS ...

[Romans 12:1-2](#)

AS CREATOR, HE EMPLOYS ...

[Genesis 1:26-28](#)

FATHER

[Matthew 7:9-12](#)

AS FATHER, HE PROTECTS ...

[John 3:16](#)
[Ephesians 2:4-5](#)
[Titus 3:4-5](#)

AS FATHER, HE EQUIPS ...

[Ephesians 1:3](#)
[Proverbs 19:17](#)
[Matthew 10:42](#)
[Luke 6:38](#)
[Psalm 112:4-5](#)

AS FATHER, HE NURTURES ...

[2 Corinthians 9:6-8](#)

AS FATHER, HE ENJOYS ...

[James 1:17](#)
[Acts 20:35](#)
[Matthew 25:21](#)
[Matthew 25:23](#)

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son,
our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, died, and was buried; He
descended to hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven and is seated at
the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy
catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of
the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

[2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)

TO BE ENGAGED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND GOOD WORKS

[Ephesians 2:10](#)
[Jeremiah 9:23-24](#)
[Ezekiel 18:5-9](#)

TO BE COMPLETE AND EQUIPPED

[2 Timothy 3:17 \(ESV\)](#)
[2 Timothy 3:17 \(NKJV\)](#)
[Hebrews 5:11-14](#)

TO BE TAUGHT AND TRAINED

[James 1:22-25](#)
[James 2:14-18](#)
[Proverbs 31:26](#)

TO BE REBUKED AND CORRECTED

[Proverbs 3:11-12](#)
[Hebrews 12:10-11](#)
[Luke 12:47-48](#)
[Psalms 40:9-11](#)
[Proverbs 12:1](#)

TOOLS: PRAYER

[Hebrews 4:16](#)
Intercession: [Philippians 1:9-11](#)
Petition: [Psalms 4:1](#)
Praise: [Psalms 107:1](#)
Adoration: [Psalms 117:2](#)
Confession: [Psalms 66:18-20](#), [Psalms 51:1-2](#)
Lord's Prayer: [Matthew 6:5-15](#)

TOOLS: FAITHFULNESS

[Deuteronomy 7:9](#)
[Psalms 85:10](#)
[1 Corinthians 7:25](#)
[Matthew 25:21](#), [Matthew 25:23](#)

TOOLS: ENDURANCE

[Psalms 100:5](#)
[Isaiah 40:28-29](#)
[Galatians 6:9](#)
[Romans 5:3-4](#)
[Lamentations 3:19-24](#)

TOOLS: HOPE

[1 Peter 1:3](#)
[Psalms 147:11](#)
[2 Thessalonians 2:16-17](#)

TOOLS: PEACE

[Romans 14:16-19](#)
[James 3:17-18](#)

TOOLS: CONSOLATION

[Psalms 94:18-19](#)
[Psalms 119:76-77](#)
[2 Corinthians 1:3-4](#)

TOOLS: PERCEPTION

[Isaiah 1:10-17](#)
[Isaiah 6:9-10](#)
[Philippians 1:9-11](#)
[Proverbs 2:3](#)
[Proverbs 2:9](#)

TOOLS: SELF-DISCIPLINE

[Titus 2:11-14](#)
[Galatians 5:13-16](#)
[Galatians 5:22-23](#)

I. HIS COMPASSIONATE PREDISPOSITION

- a) He was perceptive
 - i) by seeing the obvious
 - ii) by seeing the non-oblivious[Matthew 15:32](#)
- b) He was sensitive
 - i) by having an open door
 - ii) by having an open mind[Matthew 15:22](#)
- c) He was earnest
 - i) by being tenacious
 - ii) by being audacious[Matthew 18:32-34](#)

II. HIS AUTHENTIC CONDUCT

- a) He accepted His Father's mission
 - i) in showing respect
 - ii) in having empathy[Mark 1:40-41](#)
- b) He embraced His Father's values
 - i) in taking initiative
 - ii) in staying focused[Luke 7:13-15](#)
- c) He followed His Father's vision
 - i) in doing the work
 - ii) in trusting the process[Luke 10:33-34](#)

III. HIS UNSWERVING RESOLVE

- a) He overcame a lack of engagement
 - i) the frustration of discouragement
 - ii) the cynicism of self-righteousness[Mark 5:19-20](#)
- b) He overcame a lack of investment
 - i) the disillusionment of apathy
 - ii) the disappointment of ignorance[Mark 6:34](#)
- c) He overcame a lack of agreement
 - i) the friction of contempt
 - ii) the hostility of antagonism[Luke 15:20](#)

IV. HIS COHERENT PLAN

- a) He acknowledged the present
 - i) by meeting urgent needs first
 - ii) cultivated opportunity & confidence[Mark 9:21-22](#)
- b) He considered the future
 - i) by providing guidance
 - ii) cultivated purpose & hope[Matthew 20:34](#)
- c) He addressed the past
 - i) by encouraging reconciliation
 - ii) cultivated peace & comfort[Luke 18:13](#)

HEALING OF THE LEPER

[Mt 8:1-4](#); [Mk 1:40-45](#);
[Lk 5:12-16](#)

HEALING PHOENICIAN'S CHILD

[Mt 15:21-28](#);
[Mk 7:24-30](#)

PARABLE: UNFORGIVING SERVANT

[Mt 18:21-35](#)

RESURRECTING WIDOW'S SON

[Lk 7:11-17](#)

FEEDING OF THE 4,000

[Mt 15:29-38](#);
[Mk 7:31-8:9](#)

PARABLE: GOOD SAMARITAN

[Lk 10:25-37](#)

HEALING OF THE GADARENE

[Mt 8:28-34](#); [Mk 5:1-20](#);
[Lk 8:26-39](#)

HEALING THE EPILEPTIC SON

[Mt 17:14-23](#); [Mk 9:14-32](#);
[Lk 9:39-45](#)

PARABLE: PRODIGAL SON

[Lk 15:11-32](#)

FEEDING OF THE 5,000

[Mt 14:13-21](#); [Mk 6:30-44](#);
[Lk 9:10-17](#); [Jn 6:1-13](#)

HEALING OF THE BLIND MEN

[Mt 20:29-34](#); [Mk 10:46-52](#);
[Lk 18:35-43](#)

PARABLE: PUBLICAN'S PRAYER

[Lk 18:9-14](#)

GETTING STARTED[2 Corinthians 12:9-10](#)[Romans 12:6-8](#)[1 Corinthians 12:31](#)**ACTING WISELY**[Proverbs 1:1-4](#)[Matthew 6:1-4](#)[Matthew 5:14-16](#)[Daniel 1:9](#)**WORKING TOGETHER**[1 Corinthians 10:13](#)**BRIGHTEN THE CORNER WHERE YOU ARE***by Ina Mae Duley Ogden (1913)***VERSE 1:**

Do not wait until some deed
of greatness you may do,
Do not wait to shed
your light afar;
To the many duties ever
near you now be true,
Brighten the corner
where you are.

VERSE 2:

Just above are clouded skies
that you may help to clear,
Let not narrow self
your way debar;
Though into one heart alone
may fall your song of cheer,
Brighten the corner
where you are.

VERSE 3:

Here for all your talent
you may surely find a need,
Here reflect the bright
and Morning Star;
Even from your humble hand
the Bread of Life may feed,
Brighten the corner
where you are.

CHORUS:

Brighten the corner
where you are!
Brighten the corner
where you are!
Someone far from harbor
you may guide across the bar;
Brighten the corner
where you are!

[Matthew 9:35-38](#)

THE GIVER

(IDENTITY AND ROLE)

- Lacking certainty Timidity *I am not enough.*
For further study: [Proverbs 3](#)
- Expecting misfortune Apprehension *I am not qualified.*
For further study: [Exodus 3-4](#)
- Feeling distressed/threatened Fear *I am not confident.*
For further study: [Judges 6-8](#)
- Being weary Exhaustion *I am not hopeful.*
For further study: [1 Kings 17-19](#) (esp. ch. 19)
- Overvaluing own interests Selfishness *I am not valued.*
For further study: [Esther](#) (esp. ch. 4)

THE ENDEAVOR

(NEED AND DUTY)

- Failing to be clever Sophistry *I am not stupid.*
For further study: [Isaiah 58](#)
- Resisting action Reluctance *I am not ready.*
For further study: [Psalm 39](#)
- Experiencing mild discomfort Inconvenience *I am not willing.*
For further study: [James](#) (esp. ch. 1)
- Losing focus Deflection *I am not available.*
For further study: [Nehemiah](#) (esp. ch. 5)
- Finding fault Criticism *I am not moved.*
For further study: [Jonah](#) (esp. ch. 4)

THE RECEIVER

(GOAL AND ACTION)

- Lacking empathy Insensitivity *I am unsympathetic.*
For further study: [Romans 12-14](#) (esp. ch. 12)
- Shirking responsibility Evasiveness *I am unobligated.*
For further study: [1 Samuel 17](#)
- Being antagonistic/resentful Bitterness *I am unforgiving.*
For further study: [Genesis 37-50](#) (esp. ch. 45)
- Having harsh doubts Skepticism *I am unconvinced.*
For further study: [1 Corinthians 10](#)
- Showing scorn/disdain Contempt *I am unkind.*
For further study: [Galatians 6](#)

DEDICATION

Dedicated to Margaret Palmer Murphy (1942 – 2021)
Beloved Wife, Mother, Sister and Friend

My mom is one of the most godly, selfless and beautiful people I have ever known. She was the first person I told when I started writing this book. She proofed my first drafts, and she encouraged me to keep going when I was discouraged.

Unfortunately, she passed away before I finished writing this book. Mom, this is for you. I love you so much! I'm proud to be your son. Thank you for believing in me and instilling your values in me.

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to Anne Marie for making me feel like I hit the marriage lottery. Her encouragement and support are invaluable and precious.

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ONLINE RESOURCES

[Amazon: Open Hands](#)

[Amazon: David Franklin \(author's page\)](#)

[Goodreads: David Franklin \(author's page\)](#)

[Open Hands - Group Study Guide](#)

[Open Hands - AudioBook Supplement](#)

[Christian Charity \(J. Edwards, 1732\)](#)