

1. Mercy Agents

*What does the icon mean?*

It represents drops of blood. On the final Day of Atonement, Jesus presented his own blood in the Temple of heaven on our behalf, sealing God’s mercy.

*Relevant Scripture*

* Key verse for us as “mercy agents”: Romans 5.8, Christ died for us out of sheer mercy
* The story of Jesus acting as our High Priest on the final Day of Atonement, Hebrews 9.1-15
* How we see Christ:  the sacrifice whose wounds heal us: Isaiah 53.4-12, especially v. 5-6
* [Jubilee Cards](https://www.syncx.org/jubilee-cards) 29-35

*Why do we get to be agents of God’s mercy for the world?*

God wants people to be living guilt-free lives. He does not want them kicking themselves for the bad things they did, nor does he want them faking it, pretending they were never guilty of anything. But God does not just give everyone a free pass and tell them they do not have to feel guilty. He sends his mercy agents to show and tell how genuine guilt removal works. That is who we are, God’s mercy agents, God’s guilt-busters.

This does not come naturally. When someone hits us, our natural reaction is to hit back. They are guilty. They deserve it. If we forgive them, we think they will hit us again because we let them get away with it the first time. Jesus shows us that mercy does not work that way. He let people hit him, torture him, and kill him, but it did not mean they could do it again. It meant he was letting it happen because he realized he was an innocent, willing sacrifice. He accepted the punishment we deserved, and that merciful act opened us up to him and his transforming power.

When we realize that, we never really get over it. We start showing mercy even to the “bad” people, and that is how evil loses its control of the world. The "good" people accept God's mercy and become mercy agents so that even the “bad” people can change before God’s grace period runs out.

*What will we do today as God’s mercy agents?*

* What’s happening on our schedule today? What does today’s Jubilee Card have to do with that?
* There is way too much guilt in the world, and it really messes people’s lives up. Let’s get out there and put a stop to it in the only way that really works—showing people that we forgive them.
* But first let’s be thankful that Jesus forgave us for things we were guilty of. Then let’s start forgiving by practicing on each other. Are we still holding any grudges against any other family members? If so, let’s forgive them right now.
* Are we holding any grudges or bad feelings toward any other people because they hurt us or don’t like us? If so, let’s let those feelings go. Let’s forgive them like Christ has forgiven us—the big things and the small things. ?

*More*

[The story of the world, told in a way that shows why we see ourselves as agents of God’s mercy, calling people to take advantage of the grace period and to become mercy agents themselves (2 min. read)](https://www.syncx.org/w-a-w-mercy)

See Jubilee Cards on next page

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *A picture containing drawing  Description automatically generatedSunday**SYNC Card 29* I put my love on the line for you, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, by offering my Son in sacrificial death for you when you didn’t deserve it at all.Adapted from *The Message* paraphrase of Romans 5.8 | This is a day to remember the sacrifice of Jesus, and to live like it matters. *A picture containing drawing  Description automatically generated**We see ourselves in Christ as* ***mercy agents***Thank you for your merciful self-sacrifice for us. We will never get over that, Lord.[www.SYNCx.org](http://www.SYNCx.org) |
| *A picture containing drawing  Description automatically generatedMonday**SYNC Card 30* I bypassed all the sacrifices of goat and calf blood, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I used my own blood as the price to set you free once and for all.Adapted from *The Message* paraphrase of Hebrews 9.12 | This is a day to remember the sacrifice of Jesus, and to live like it matters. *A picture containing drawing  Description automatically generated**We see ourselves in Christ as* ***mercy agents***Thank you for giving your life-blood as the price of our freedom. Thank you. Thank you.[www.SYNCx.org](http://www.SYNCx.org) |
| *A picture containing drawing  Description automatically generatedTuesday**SYNC Card 31* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I was beaten so you could know peace. My wounds heal you.Adapted from *The Message* paraphrase of Isaiah 53.5 | This is a day to remember the sacrifice of Jesus, and to live like it matters. *A picture containing drawing  Description automatically generated**We see ourselves in Christ as* ***mercy agents***Thank you for taking the beating we deserved. Thank you that your wounds heal us.[www.SYNCx.org](http://www.SYNCx.org) |
| *A picture containing drawing  Description automatically generatedWednesday**SYNC Card 32* It's simple, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. If you forgive other people when they sin against you, I will also forgive you. If you don't, I won't.Adapted from *The Message* paraphrase of Matthew 6.14-15 | This is a day to remember the sacrifice of Jesus, and to live like it matters. *A picture containing drawing  Description automatically generated**We see ourselves in Christ as* ***mercy agents***OK, Lord, since you say so, we will let go of all our grudges and grievances today, like you forgave us.[www.SYNCx.org](http://www.SYNCx.org) |
| *A picture containing drawing  Description automatically generatedThursday**SYNC Card 33* Repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in his name to all nations including yours, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.Adapted from *The Message* paraphrase of Luke 24.47 | This is a day to remember the sacrifice of Jesus, and to live like it matters. *A picture containing drawing  Description automatically generated**We see ourselves in Christ as* ***mercy agents***Thank you that your forgiveness is for all people of all nations. Help us get the word out today.[www.SYNCx.org](http://www.SYNCx.org) |
| *A picture containing drawing  Description automatically generatedFriday**SYNC Card 34* I redeem you from hell, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I save your life! I crown you with love and mercy, getting you dressed for paradise.Adapted from *The Message* paraphrase of Psalm 103.3-4 | This is a day to remember the sacrifice of Jesus, and to live like it matters. *A picture containing drawing  Description automatically generated**We see ourselves in Christ as* ***mercy agents***Thank you for saving us and crowning us with so much love and mercy that we have some to share.[www.SYNCx.org](http://www.SYNCx.org) |
| *A picture containing drawing  Description automatically generatedSaturday**SYNC Card 35* For even if the mountains walk away and the hills fall to pieces, my love and mercy won’t walk away from you, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. My commitment stands.Adapted from *The Message* paraphrase of Isaiah 54.10 | This is a day to remember the sacrifice of Jesus, and to live like it matters. *A picture containing drawing  Description automatically generated**We see ourselves in Christ as* ***mercy agents***Thank you that your mercy will outlast the mountains. We trust you absolutely and always.[www.SYNCx.org](http://www.SYNCx.org) |