

## PASTOR'S PATCH

### Mercy – The Bread of Life



As we continue our studies in The Beatitudes we come this week to being “merciful”. But what does that mean? As an illustration, I share with you a fictional anecdote I once read.

Once, in a small village high in the rural hills, there lived a baker named André. He was known for his delicious bread. Every morning, he would set aside a basket of fresh bread to give to those in need.

One winter, a travelling man arrived in the village. He was weary and worn, with little more than the clothes on his back. Desperate for food, he approached André’s bakery. The rich aroma of fresh bread wafted through the air, but he had no money.

André noticed the man and invited him inside. As they shared some bread and soup, the man revealed he had lost everything in a storm and was searching for work. André listened intently, offering words of comfort and hope.

After their meal, the man, filled with gratitude, insisted on helping clean up the bakery. He worked diligently, and as the day went on, André could see the man’s spirit lifting. However, he sensed the man had a burden of shame and guilt over his situation.

A few weeks later, as the man continued to help at the bakery, he confessed to André that very shame and guilt, one that had led him to his current plight. André placed a reassuring hand on the man’s shoulder and said, “We all stumble. What matters is how we rise afterward. Mercy is not about forgetting the past; it’s about offering and receiving understanding and compassion.” With André’s support, the man began to heal. He eventually started his own bakery in another village, and lived as André did.

Mercy involves listening, giving, healing, working through the hurt, and restoring. As Jesus does this for us, so we participate in His work as He brings others into our lives. We practice mercy, because we have been freely shown mercy.

***“Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”***

(Hebrews 13:1-2)

***Colin Opie***

# BRIGHT LIGHTS PARTY

FOR 5 - 11 YEAR OLDS



Wednesday 6th Nov 5:30 - 7pm  
BRIXHAM BAPTIST CHURCH HALL

FREE  
ENTRY

**Games and Activities, Craft, Prizes,  
Face Painter, Bouncy Castle, Snacks and more!**  
**Dress Code: Wear something BRIGHTLY COLOURED**



Please book via the website [www.brixhambaptist.org.uk](http://www.brixhambaptist.org.uk)  
For more information call **MARIA**  
on **07809 186963** or email [families@brixhambaptist.org.uk](mailto:families@brixhambaptist.org.uk)