Works of Mercy

According to Mt. 25:31-46, mercy will be the quality on which the Christian will ultimately be judged. This understanding of the necessity of mercy was also developed in the early Church, particularly in the *Didache,* which went so far as to state that those who have no mercy will be condemned.
Traditionally these dictates of the Gospel have been handed down to us as the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, which should characterize the lives Christians lead.

The corporal works of mercy require the follower of Jesus:

Feed the hungry
Give drink to the thirsty
Clothe the naked
Visit those imprisoned
Shelter the homeless
Visit for the sick and bury the dead

The spiritual works of mercy include:

Admonish the sinner,
Instruct the ignorant,
Counsel the doubtful,
Comfort the sorrowful,
Bear wrongs patiently,
Forgive injuries,
Pray for the living and the dead.

These build on the biblical foundation that one must "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God" (Mic. 6:8).