

March 14, 2021

2. Faith and Actions—

1 Peter 4:1-11

This week, the community I grew up in, Brantford, Ontario, is mourning the loss of a community hero, Walter Gretzky, father of hockey legend Wayne Gretzky. As I scrolled through my social media feeds the day after Walter's death, it appeared that almost everyone from my hometown had some sort of personal anecdote of an encounter with Walter. I remember what happened when Walter would enter a public space. There would be those whispers of "Look! There's Walter!" and then everyone would simply stop and watch as he transformed the space, simply by being there. Walter lit up every room he entered. He was always smiling. He had time to greet and talk with absolutely anyone who wanted to chat or have his autograph. Walter's generosity of spirit is being testified to again and again in the personal stories and news articles that abound as people reflect on his life.¹

It got me thinking about my own life and character. How do people experience me? How would I be remembered? Do I embody that same degree of joy, love, and hospitality in the mundane activities of my daily life? Would the way I show up at the bank or the grocery store have a positive influence on my community? Walter sure did.

First Peter 4:9-11 calls us to

[b]e hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.

While this sounds like a tall order, it also sounds a lot like Walter. Imagine if we who belong to Christ were known as that person in our community. That person who is hospitable without complaining. That person who serves others with whatever they have —with time, with eye contact, with a smile. That person who speaks as though speaking the very words of God. To move about our community with a generous and humble spirit is a simple thing, but it is also radically countercultural. It leaves others feeling loved and uplifted, which ultimately glorifies God.

—Rachel Wallace

Wallace.rae@gmail.com

¹. Susan Gamble, "Community Mourns the Loss of Walter Gretzky, 82," *The Expositor*, March 5, 2021, <https://www.brantfordexpositor.ca/news/brantford-joins-gretzky-family-in-mourning-loss-of-walter-82>.



Rachel Wallace loves Jesus, her husband, James, her two kids, and her dog. She pastors the Eigenheim Mennonite Church in rural Saskatchewan. Her kids would tell you she spends too much time on Facebook. They're right.

Looking for participant guide page numbers in the leader guide? The page numbers in the leader guide work for both guides.

Resources for this session

- Elizabeth Soto Albrecht is the presenter for unit 1, God's Holy People. These teaching videos are great for leader preparation or introducing each weekly session. *The videos are free and available on [MennoMedia's YouTube channel](#).*
- A **Salt & Light Reproducible** is available for use with this session, found at www.MennoMedia.org/SL.