



The Word at Work

Cultivating Kindness

Reading the Word

Key Scriptures: various; Luke 10:25-37

Key Points:

- We have tasted that the Lord is good (kind) and that is the basis for our spiritual growth (1 Pet.2:3)
- The knowledge of God's goodness (generosity) should be expressed in good deeds that communicate our faith (Philemon 6 NLT)

Kindness Saves People

- It was the overflow of grace in kindness that led to our salvation (Titus 3:4; Eph.2:7)
- God is not just kind to the deserving but to those who don't deserve it (Luke 6:32-35) – that's all of us, then!
- The kindness of God leads us to repentance (Rom.2:4)

This truth encourages us in our acts of kindness – small but significant expressions of unconditional love, giving freely with no strings attached.

Kindness as A Way of Life

But kindness is not a method or an evangelistic strategy. It is a quality, a value we live by, a way of life, a daily choice, a fruit of living by the Spirit (Gal.5:22).

However we don't wait until we feel kind – we put kindness into practice, we decide to be kind, and we cultivate kindness.

Because we have the nature of God (2 Pet.1:4) it actually feels right to be kind – it is what we want to be.

The Devil's False Choices

We can miss the importance of being kind and doing good because Christians have often allowed the devil to convince them they have to choose between:

- Truth or grace (but see John 1:17)
- Charisma or compassion (but see Isaiah 61:1 and Luke 4:)
- Moral goodness or kindness (but see Rom.2:4)

Note that we don't have to choose between acts or words, but the Spirit's emphasis right now is on our *acts* of kindness.

Religious Goodness or Genuine Goodness: Luke 10:25-37

It is possible to combine moral goodness with kindness, but religious 'goodness' will kill kindness.

Priest/Levite:

- Separation
- Sanctuary
- Position
- Law/Teaching

Samaritan:

- Compassion
- Street
- People
- Grace in Action

Doing the Word

To Discuss:

1. How can we cultivate kindness?
2. How do we express kindness to all people unconditionally without abandoning moral goodness or allowing it to be distorted into religious goodness?

To Do:

1. Consciously perform an act of kindness to a stranger everyday this week

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