

Lost Words: Kindness

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Outline

1. Kindness is a matter of choosing what kind of person I want to become.
2. Kindness is a reflection of our relationship to God.
3. Kindness forces us to look past ourselves, our rights, and our agenda.
4. In the end, kindness will benefit me more than others.

Scripture: Col. 3:12-14

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

2 Samuel 9:1-13

¹ David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

² Now there was a servant of Saul's household named Ziba. They called him to appear before David, and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?"

"Your servant," he replied.

³ The king asked, "Is there no one still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?"

Ziba answered the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet."

⁴ "Where is he?" the king asked.

Ziba answered, "He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar."

⁵ So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel.

⁶ When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor.

David said, "Mephibosheth!"

"Your servant," he replied.

⁷ "Don't be afraid," David said to him, "for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table."

⁸ Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?"

⁹ Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. ¹⁰ You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master's grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table." (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.)

11 Then Ziba said to the king, "Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's ^[a] table like one of the king's sons.

Opening Question

Where is a lack of kindness most noticeable to you?

Digging for Truth

1. Sometimes we have opportunities for kindness because we are in the right place at the right time. The question is "Will we be the right person?" Have you had any opportunities lately to exhibit kindness to a stranger?
2. The first spiritual truth about kindness is this: "**Kindness is a matter of choosing what kind of person I want to become.**" Sometimes we're more motivated by seeing people who've made choices that are overtly evil. Have you been motivated by rudeness?
3. The second spiritual truth is that "**Kindness is a reflection of our relationship to God.**" Do you believe this to be true? Why or why not? Why is it important for believers to show kindness?
4. How do you respond when you see that you have not treated people as God would have us? (first make it right with the individual, then make it right with God.)
5. Matt said the constant drift of our nature is inward or selfish. In other words, treating others with kindness is counter to our natural actions. If that is true, how do we find the way to live a life of kindness? (spending time with God, listening to the Holy Spirit)

Matt said, "Communion and intimacy with God will result in kindness and grace toward others." If this is true, how do you rate your communion and intimacy with God. Some of you share what you do to maintain communion and intimacy with God.

6. The third spiritual truth is this: "**Kindness forces us to look past ourselves, our rights, and our agenda.**" The story in Scripture of the man on the road is the best example of people choosing not to do the right thing when passing an injured man on the road. Each chose to ignore the need for different reasons. When you choose to ignore a need, what is the most common reason you use? What does God think about your excuse?
7. The fourth spiritual truth about kindness is that "**In the end, kindness will benefit me more than others.**" Why do you believe this to be a true or false statement?

Proverbs 21:21 says "Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness and honor." Therefore, **when we treat others with kindness, we receive the greater reward.**

Closing Thoughts

What is the most common opportunity you have to show kindness? Share with the group one possible scenario for you in the coming week or month, along with how you hope you'll act in the situation.

Matt gave us an assignment to perform one random act of kindness each day. Will you take the challenge?