

john 15:4
A b i d e in **ME**



Bible studies for disciples who make disciples

Loudonville Community Church

Volume 6 - Number 22
The week of May 16, 2021

A Life Well-Lived

Kindness is a Verb

Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Samuel 9:1-13

“²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

1. What was your concept of kindness before listening to Sunday’s message?

STUDY NOTE

Kindness is rooted in the character of God the Father, reflected in the ministry of Jesus, and is the overflow of a life in sync with the Holy Spirit. The Hebrew word *hesed*, often translated *kindness* or *steadfast love*, refers to an attitude that bears a deep and abiding commitment to help a needy person who is unable to reciprocate or repay the compassion shown. Kindness describes God’s posture and actions towards us. It is not just about doing kind things. It is an orientation of the heart.

Read Romans 2:4

“⁴ Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?”

2. Why does God show us kindness? How does this help you to understand God’s attitude towards you?

Read Luke 6:35-36

“³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

3. What does it mean for us to show the kindness of God towards others?

The kindness of God is typified and also reflected in a story from the life of David in 2 Samuel 9. In order to understand David's actions towards Mephibosheth, it is important to remember David's special friendship to Jonathan, Saul's son and father of Mephibosheth.

Read 1 Samuel 20:13b-17

Jonathan said: “^{13b} May the Lord be with you, as he has been with my father. ¹⁴ If I am still alive, show me the steadfast love [*hesed*] of the Lord, that I may not die; ¹⁵ and do not cut off your steadfast love [*hesed*] from my house forever, when the Lord cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.’ ¹⁶ And Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, ‘May the Lord take vengeance on David's enemies.’ ¹⁷ And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul.”

Read 2 Samuel 9:1

“¹ And David said, ‘Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?’”

4. As the story opens, how would you describe David's attitude? Why is David determined to show kindness towards anyone from Saul's family still alive?

Read 2 Samuel 9:2-5

“² Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David. And the king said to him, ‘Are you Ziba?’ And he said, ‘I am your servant.’ ³ And the king said, ‘Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?’ Ziba said to the king, ‘There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet.’ ⁴ The king said to him, ‘Where is he?’ And Ziba said to the king, ‘He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar.’ ⁵ Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar.”

STUDY NOTE

When news of Saul's and Jonathan's deaths reached Saul's palace, the members of the royal house fled in panic. In the chaos, five-year-old Mephibosheth was dropped by his nurse, severely injuring his ankles and feet, leaving him permanently disabled. Despite being the grandson of King Saul, Mephibosheth lived in isolation and poverty. His name means, “he scatters shame.” Lo-Debar, where he lived, means “barren” or “pastureless.”

5. What do you think Mephibosheth's subsequent years were like?

6. Imagine being in Mephibosheth's shoes and being summoned to the court of King David, his grandfather's rival. What might you be thinking?

Read 2 Samuel 9:6-13.

“⁶ And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, ‘Mephibosheth!’ And he answered, ‘Behold, I am your servant.’
⁷ And David said to him, ‘Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always.’⁸ And he paid homage and said, ‘What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?’
⁹ Then the king called Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, ‘All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson. ¹⁰ And you and your sons and your servants shall till the land for him and shall bring in the produce, that your master's grandson may have bread to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's grandson shall always eat at my table.’ Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. ¹¹ Then Ziba said to the king, ‘According to all that my lord the king commands his servant, so will your servant do.’ So Mephibosheth ate at David's table, like one of the king's sons. ¹² And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Mica. And all who lived in Ziba's house became Mephibosheth's servants. ¹³ So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate always at the king's table. Now he was lame in both his feet.”

7. What is the most striking image in this passage to you?

8. Why did David show Mephibosheth such kindness?

9. How did Mephibosheth respond to David's kindness?

10. How is this story a beautiful parallel of how God, through the riches of His kindness, has treated us in Christ?

11. How does dwelling on the kindness of God and the story of David and Mephibosheth empower you to show kindness to others?

12. How can you mirror the kindness of God to those closest to you, towards your neighbor, or those you work with?

Sermon Notes: *Kindness is a Verb*
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THE
BIBLE RECAP
BY D-GROUP

Sunday, May 16 thru Saturday, May 22, 2021

Psalm 3-4, 12-13, 28, 55; 2 Samuel 16-18;

Ps. 26, 40, 58, 61-62, 64; 2 Samuel 19-21; Ps. 5, 38,
41-42; 2 Samuel 22-23, Ps. 57; Ps. 95, 97-99

