



SERMON NOTES

Week 1 October 6, 2024

"The Power of Kindness"

*John 17:20-21; Matthew 7:12; Micah 6:8;
Proverbs 20:28, 21:21*



I. Introduction

A. In this sermon series, we are looking at ways we can play a role in lowering the polarization and increasing the _____ across our community.

B. The night before his crucifixion, Jesus prayed that his followers would be _____.

C. God requires us to love _____.

II. Hesed

A. _____ includes compassion, kindness, mercy, and steadfast love or loyalty.

B. Kindness is one of the most _____ attributes we can have as a human being.

C. Our mission is to practice kindness toward other people in _____ ways.

III. Hesed and Politics

A. We should have vigorous _____ about our challenges and problems, with two or more sides working to come up with the best solutions.

B. Ronald Reagan (Republican) and Tip O'Neil (Democrat) could be tough negotiators and adversaries when it came to politics, but they were also _____.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *October 7-12, 2024*

INTRODUCTION

If we believe the other party is wrong about some really critical issues, are we simply to be nice and not address these serious differences? No - we should stand up for what we believe in. But too often we do that with rancor, in a way that merely pushes people away from what we believe. That only further polarizes us. Micah 6:8 offers us a better way.

Monday: Psalm 18:46-50

God showed David “faithful love” or “kindness” (Hebrew *hesed*) - but not just David. Galatians 3:26 said we are “all God’s children through faith in Christ Jesus.” God offers that same loving kindness to everyone who chooses to be his child. What does it mean to your faith to know God values you as much as the writer of Psalm 18? In what ways has God “rescued” you over the course of your life, from both outer and inner “enemies”?

Tuesday: 2 Samuel 4:4, 9:1-13

A new ruler or boss often aims to get rid of anyone loyal to a former leader. Mephibosheth, King Saul’s grandson, with limited mobility due to a childhood accident, likely lived in hiding. David used the Hebrew word *hesed* (that keyword that expressed God’s deep covenant love and kindness) three times for what he wanted to show Jonathan’s remaining son. What does seeing how David kept his promise to Jonathan tell you about the value he attached to kindness?

Wednesday: Proverbs 21:21, Zechariah 7:9-10

Zechariah reminded Israel that “devout faith is demonstrated, not in rote ritual, but in rendering ‘true judgments, ...kindness and mercy (verse 9). We are to act on behalf of the powerless in our world, taking particular care not to do harm to widows, orphans, aliens and the poor.” * How does your heart respond to Zechariah’s prophetic call to extend “kindness” beyond the easiest people to reach to those who may need it the most?

Thursday: Luke 6:27-36

Luke linked the Golden Rule (“Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you”— verse 31) to Jesus’ words about how to treat enemies. In what relationships do you find it hardest for you to treat others as you’d wish them to treat you? How can Jesus’ teaching help you discern how to live out the Golden Rule in ways that blesses others while you maintain healthy boundaries and self-care?

Friday: 1 Timothy 1:12-16, 2 Timothy 2:23-25

The letters to Timothy echoed Jesus’ teaching in Luke 6:27-28, which we read yesterday: “Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you.” Acting like that is not natural to any of us. In what ways can you allow the Holy Spirit to reshape your natural impulses to grow the fruit of kindness toward all people in your life?

MOVING FORWARD

Our mission, as Jesus followers, is to practice kindness toward other people in tangible ways. Waiting for our leaders to “model kindness and understanding with people they disagree” may not happen if “we the people,” the people who elect them, are not willing to do this first. Kindness might just be the key to saving American democracy.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) love, B) unified, C) kindness. IIA) Hesed, B) powerful, IIC) tangible. IIIA) debate, B) friends.