

KIND-A-LOVE?
“SHOWING LOVE TO EACH OTHER”
1 Cor. 13 Part 3
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What is kindness? Kindness is love in action.

Jesus tells this story of three men who are traveling on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. They all encounter a crime scene. These three men represent three attitudes toward the people around you, particularly the people in pain.

1. **Keep My Distance attitude.** Luke 10:30-31 *“There was a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him, stripped him, beat him up and left him half dead. It so happened that a priest was going down that road. But when he saw the man he walked on by the other side.”*
 - Don’t get involved you don’t get hurt. Stay away from hurting people...

2. **Curious but Uninvolved attitude.** Luke 10:32 says, *“In the same way a Levite also came there.”* A Levite was a temple assistant. *“He went over, looked at the man and then walked on by on the other side.”* This guy’s even worse. He walks over across the street, sees this guy victimized, laying there, beaten half dead, naked, bleeding to death, looks at him – stares at him – walks back to the other side and keeps on walking.
 - Have you noticed it’s a lot easier to gossip about people’s problems than it is to help them with it?

3. **Treat Others How I Want to be Treated attitude.** verse 33, *“A Samaritan who was traveling that way came upon the man and when he saw him his heart was filled with pity.”* If you want to grow in love – and that’s what we’re talking about

This Good Samaritan demonstrates 4 Keys to Kindness.

1. Start seeing the needs of people around me.

Luke 10:33, *“When he saw the man’s condition, his heart went out to him.”* Circle “when he saw.” If you want to learn to become a more kind person, you’ve got to change the way you look at the world.

2. The Good Samaritan sympathized with people’s pain.

It’s not enough to just see their need, you must feel their emotions.

Luke 10:33, *“When he saw him, his heart was filled with pity.”* Circle “pity.” First, his eyes kicked in. Then his ears and his heart kicked in, and he’s filled with pity.

The Bible tells us *“Weep with those who weep.”* In other words, share their sorrow. Enter into their emotion. Feel what they feel.

If sensitivity begins with your eyes, sympathy begins with your ears.

- Learning to listen is the secret of genuine sympathy. The better listener you become, the more sympathetic you become. Sometimes kindness is just listening.

3. Seize the moment.

Seize the moment to be kind. Don't wait. Don't delay. Don't procrastinate. Do what you can at that very moment. This is the third thing that the Good Samaritan did.

"Kneeling beside him the Samaritan soothed his wounds with medicine and bandaged them." He took action. As we said last week: Love is something you do. He didn't just say, "I'm sorry for this guy. Isn't it a shame? Isn't that too bad?" He actually did something.

- Notice, he stooped down. In other words, he got on the man's level. He didn't pretend he was superior, and he didn't talk down to him. He gets eye-to-eye contact.
- Second, he uses what he had. Other translations say he dressed the man's wounds with wine and oil. Why? That's what he had on his donkey.

Proverbs 3:27-28 says, *"Never walk away from some one who deserves help. Your hand is God's hand for that person. Never tell your neighbors to wait until tomorrow if you can help them now."*

The Good Samaritan teaches two very profound lessons about kindness. If you want to genuinely become a kinder person, you must be willing to do two things:

1. **You must be willing to be interrupted.**
2. **You must be willing to take risks.**

4. Spend whatever it takes.

There is always a cost to kindness. There is always a price tag. It inevitably causes you to sacrifice time or money or energy or reputation or privacy. It costs to be kind.

In Luke 10:34-35, it says, *"Then the man [the Good Samaritan] put the man on his own donkey and he took him to an inn where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two pieces of silver [These were denari, which were about two months worth of wages.] and he told him to take care of the man. 'If his bill runs higher than that,' he said, 'I'll pay the difference the next time I'm here.'"*

This guy did all he could to take care of a total stranger.

- First, he ministers to him, administers first aid at the scene of the crime.
- He puts him on his donkey, which means that he walked. So he had to walk the 20 miles to Jericho because he put a hurting man on his donkey.
- He gets him to a motel. He checks him in. He nurses him through the night. He provides for his care.
- Then he pays the bill.
- Then he says, By the way, I'll be back this way in a little while, put it on my tab