



Love is a Many-Splendored Thing

The Power of Kindness

Luke 6:27-36

Shaking off our inoculation around the idea of "love"

A sun to the campfire, an ocean to the dish sink, a tornado to the ceiling fan

Love is as strong as death, the very flame of the Lord: Song of Songs 8:6,7

A series to recapture our wonder at this many-splendored thing

Nine descriptors of what "love one another as I have loved you" looks like

"We believe in the transformational power of kindness"

Kindness appears second in Paul's famous definition of love: 1 Corinthians 13:5

Fifth in the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22)

It is a direct imitation of God: see Ephesians 4:32-5:1; Ephesians 2:7; Romans 2:4

Kindness **exceeds niceness/politeness/courtesy/civility** (which is expected)

As a **targeted graciousness**, a particularized goodness given (which is unexpected)

Kindness belongs in the "family group" of mercy and grace: going the extra mile

Kindness **finds its unique fulfillment** when we love our enemies: Luke 6:32-36

Crossing barriers of race, culture, of creed, of status, of relation, etc.

Jesus' example with the Samaritan Woman, Zacchaeus, the Syro-Phoenician Woman

The make-up of the Twelve: a Zealot and a tax-collector

The biker and the blanket, OK Imam, and Tony Tumminello

Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan is the quintessential example: Luke 10:29-37

The **power of kindness** in the **recipient and the giver**

Kindness dismantles defendedness in the recipient

(Rudeness/meanness reinforces walls. Politeness maintains the status quo)

Breaks down resistance to you as a carrier of kingdom goodness

Kindness catalyzes the **distinct joy "of the higher things"** in the giver

Motivating a cycle of reinforcement

Highlanders as generous stewards of kindness in our daily mission outposts

Kindness from a Highlander may be why a stranger ends up visiting our campus

May such a visitor find more where that came from!

Make mistakes in kindness than work miracles in unkindness--Mother Teresa