

## Doctrine of Kindness

1. The first usage of the word kindness in the Bible is associated with an abuse of the act. Fearing for his life Abraham persuades Sarah to lie and say that she was not his wife but his sister. This half-truth was a whole lie.
  - *Genesis 20:13 And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said unto her, This is thy kindness which thou shalt shew unto me; at every place whither we shall come, say of me, He is my brother.*
  
2. Fearing for his life Abimelech pleaded for kindness to be extended to him at the hand of Abraham.
  - *Genesis 21:23 Now therefore swear unto me here by God that thou wilt not deal falsely with me, nor with my son, nor with my son's son: but according to the kindness that I have done unto thee, thou shalt do unto me, and to the land wherein thou hast sojourned.*
  
3. When looking for a wife for Isaac the servant of Abraham asked for kindness. If there is a principle of application it might be that the finding of a good wife is a great act of God's kindness.
  - *Genesis 24:12 And he said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham.*
  - *Genesis 24:14 And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master.*
  
4. During his days of imprisonment Joseph sought an act of kindness from the butler he had helped with mental anxiety over a dream.
  - *Genesis 40:14 But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house:*
  
5. Rahab sought confirmation of kindness to be shown her for help in assisting the spies of Jericho.
  - *Joshua 2:12 Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token:*
  
6. The kindness of the heart can quickly dissipate.
  - *Judges 8:33-34 And it came to pass, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel turned again, and went a whoring after Baalim, and made Baal-berith their god.*

- *34 And the children of Israel remembered not the LORD their God, who had delivered them out of the hands of all their enemies on every side: 35 Neither shewed they kindness to the house of Jerubbaal, namely, Gideon, according to all the goodness which he had shewed unto Israel.*
7. Despite the treachery of men and the difficulties of life the Lord's kindness is constant.
- *Ruth 2:20 And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the LORD, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen.*
8. The charming femininity and kindness of Ruth towards Boaz was deeply appreciated.
- *Ruth 3:10 And he said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich.*
9. An act of historical kindness served the Kenites well during the days of King Saul.
- *1 Samuel 15:6 And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.*
10. The friendship between David and Jonathan was based upon promises of kindness.
- *1 Samuel 20:14 And thou shalt not only while yet I live shew me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not:*
  - *1 Samuel 20:15 But also thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth.*
11. David appreciated the acts of kindness displayed towards King Saul.
- *2 Samuel 2:5 And David sent messengers unto the men of Jabesh-gilead, and said unto them, Blessed be ye of the LORD, that ye have shewed this kindness unto your lord, even unto Saul, and have buried him.*
  - *2 Samuel 2:6 And now the LORD shew kindness and truth unto you: and I also will requite you this kindness, because ye have done this thing.*
12. The commander in chief of Saul's army mistook his military responsibilities for acts of kindness in order to abuse the concept and do that which was morally wrong.

- *2 Samuel 3:8 Then was Abner very wroth for the words of Ish-bosheth, and said, Am I a dog's head, which against Judah do shew kindness this day unto the house of Saul thy father, to his brethren, and to his friends, and have not delivered thee into the hand of David, that thou chargest me to day with a fault concerning this woman?*

13. Though a violent man by nature and a man of war, David had a heart to show natural kindness apart from compulsion.

- *2 Samuel 9:1 And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?*
- *2 Samuel 9:3 And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.*
- *2 Samuel 9:7 And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.*

14. Some acts of kindness are recompense for acts of kindness received.

- *2 Samuel 10:2 Then said David, I will shew kindness unto Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father shewed kindness unto me. And David sent to comfort him by the hand of his servants for his father. And David's servants came into the land of the children of Ammon.*

14. The kindness of God became a basis for praise on the lips of Solomon.

- *1 Kings 3:6 And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.*

15. Kindness is a divine attributes.

- *Nehemiah 9:17 And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.*

16. Remembering the kindness of God should be a matter of praise by all of God's people.

- *Psalms 31:21 Blessed be the LORD: for he hath shewed me his marvellous kindness in a strong city.*
- *Psalms 117:2 For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD.*

17. It is not wrong to ask the Lord to be kind.

- *Psalms 119:76 Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant.*

18. One act of kindness is to arrest the wrong behavior of others.

- *Psalms 141:5 Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness: and let him reprove me; it shall be an excellent oil, which shall not break my head: for yet my prayer also shall be in their calamities.*

19. A virtuous woman is noted by her kindness. .

- *Proverbs 31:26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.*

20. The kindness of God is everlasting towards His covenant people.

- *Isaiah 54:8 In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.*
- *Isaiah 54:10 For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.*
- *Jeremiah 2:2 Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown.*

21. In kindness God will forgive the sins of those who repent.

- *Joel 2:13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.*

22. Jonah testified to the kindness of God.

- *Jonah 4:2 And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.*

23. Kindness can be shown by people not of religious faith.

- *33. Acts 28:2 And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold.*

24. Every believer is to be noted for kindness.

- *2 Corinthians 6:6 By pureness, by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,*
- *Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering;*
- *2 Peter 1:7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.*

25. One of the reasons for salvation and eternal life is to display the kindness of God in the ages to come.

- *Ephesians 2:7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*
- *Titus 3:4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared,*