

Podcast 263 God is Kind

“The LORD is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His works.” (Psalm 145:17)

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.” (Galatians 5:22)

“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.” (Colossians 3:12)

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:32)

“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?” (Romans 2:4)

Henry Moorhouse

BY JOHN BJORLIE IN HEROES APRIL 1, 1999, uplook.org

D.L. Moody to his wife.

’How do the people like him? Did you like him?’

“Yes, very much. He has preached two sermons from John 3:16, and I think you will like him, although he preaches a little different from what you do.’

“How is that?’

“Well, he tells sinners God loves them.’

“Well,’ said I, ‘he is wrong.’

“She said: ‘I think you will agree with him when you hear him because he backs up everything he says with the Word of God.’

“I went down to church that night, and I noticed everyone brought his Bible.’My friends,’ began Moorhouse, ‘If you will turn to the third chapter of John and the sixteenth verse, you will find my text.’

“He preached a most extraordinary sermon from that verse. He did not divide the text into ‘Secondly’ and ‘Thirdly’ and ‘Fourthly.’ He just took it as a whole, and then went through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation to prove that in all ages God loved the world; that He sent prophets and patriarchs and holy men to warn them, and last of all sent His Son. After they murdered Him, He sent the Holy Ghost.

“I never knew up to that time that God loved us so much. This heart of mine began to thaw out, and I could not keep back the tears. It was like news from a far country. I just drank it in.

“The next night there was a great crowd, for the people like to hear that God loves them, and he said, ‘My friends, if you will turn in your Bible to the third chapter of John and the sixteenth verse you will find my text!’ He preached another extraordinary sermon from that wonderful verse, and he went on proving God’s love again from Genesis to Revelation. He could turn to almost any part of the Bible and prove it. I thought that sermon was better than the other one. He struck a higher chord than ever, and it was sweet to my soul to hear it.

“The next night—it is pretty hard to get a crowd out in Chicago on Monday night, but they came...He said again, ‘My friends, if you will turn to the sixteenth verse of the third chapter of John you will find my text,’ and again he followed it out to prove that God loves us. He just beat it down into our hearts, and I have never doubted it since. I used to preach that God was behind the sinner with a double-edged sword, ready to hew him down. I am done with that. I preach now that God is behind the sinner with love, and he is running from the God of love.

“Tuesday night came, and we thought surely he had exhausted that text and would take another, but he preached the sixth sermon from that wonderful text, ‘God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have’—not going to have when you die, but have it right here, now—everlasting life.’ Although many years have rolled away, his hearers never have forgotten it.

“The seventh night came, and he went into the pulpit. Every eye was upon him. All were anxious to know what he was going to preach about. He said, ‘My friends, I have been hunting all day for a new text, but I cannot find one as good as the old one, so we will go back to the third chapter of John and the sixteenth verse,’ and he preached the seventh sermon from that wonderful text. I remember the close of that sermon. Said he:

“‘My friends, for a whole week I have been trying to tell you how much God loves you, but I cannot do it with this poor stammering tongue. If I could borrow Jacob’s ladder, and climb up into heaven and ask Gabriel, who stands in the presence of the Almighty, if he could tell me how much love the Father has for the world, all he could say would be, “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”’”

It was a revelation to Moody. "I have never forgotten those nights. I have preached a different gospel since, and I have had more power with God and man since then."

"I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ."
(2 Corinthians 10:1)

"Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for He is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked."
(Luke 6:35)

Consider lovingkindness

Other passages can be found by searching for the word "grace" in the New Testament. If you want to broaden the scope of your study, consider the word "lovingkindness" which is normally rendered "steadfast love" or "unfailing love" in newer translations. In the King James Version, "mercy" is used in place of "lovingkindness."

My heart resonates with the word "lovingkindness" and consider it the Old Testament equivalent of the New Testament word "grace." Lovingkindness captures the essence of God's heart. He is slow to anger, merciful, gracious, and overflowing in lovingkindness and truth. Here are a few of my favorite passages which express this attribute in a few different translations.

"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting."
(Psalm 136:1 NASB)

"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever."
(Psalm 136:1 ESV)

"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever."
(Psalm 136:1 NLT)

"Surely goodness and lovingkindness shall follow me all the days of my life; And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."
(Psalm 23:6 NASB)

"All the paths of the Lord are lovingkindness and truth Unto such as keep His covenant and His testimonies."
(Psalm 25:10)

"He loves whatever is just and good; the unfailing love of the LORD fills the earth."
(Psalm 33:5 NLT)

"Thy lovingkindness, O the Lord, is in the heavens; Thy faithfulness reaches unto the skies."
(Psalm 36:5)

“Because Your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.” (Psalm 63:3–4 NASB)

Jesus was the perfect blend of God’s steadfast love, His faithfulness, as well as His righteousness and peace. There is so much meaning packed into this single verse.

“Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.” (Psalm 85:10)

“When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared.” (Titus 3:4)

“The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.” (Psalm 145:13)

“She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.” (Proverbs 31:26)

“Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness, and honor.” (Proverbs 21:21)