

More Like Jesus in Kindness Lk. 17:11-19

Thesis: To help us be more like Jesus in kindness.

Introduction:

- A. There are numerous examples of the kindness of Christ.
 - 1. It is in this example of the kindness of Christ that we can see how kind He truly was.
 - 2. Today, we will notice how we can apply those characteristics of His kindness to our lives.

- B. Notice some facts about leprosy.
 - 1. Leprosy was a disease that could not be cured.
 - 2. Unless a miracle occurred, the only way to be cured of leprosy was to die.
 - 3. Leprosy was so contagious that the one with leprosy was immediately removed from the camp.
 - a. All of Lev. 13-14 deals with leprosy.
 - b. Lev. 13:46 (God's law to Israel concerning leprosy) - He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He is unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.
 - c. Usually lepers would be around other lepers because no one wanted to come near them.
 - d. Whenever a leper came near someone without leprosy, they had to cover their mouth and shout "Unclean! Unclean!" so that others could be warned of his presence (Lev. 13:45)

I. Notice how Jesus was kind to others, especially these lepers.

A. In His kindness, Jesus did something for the lepers that they could not do themselves.

- 1. Jesus showed great kindness to the lepers by healing them of their disease.
- 2. Jesus tells these men to go and show themselves to the priest.
 - a. As they went, they were healed.
 - b. The kindness of Jesus always involves action.

B. Jesus was kind to those who did not like Him.

- 1. At least one of them was a Samaritan.
 - a. The Samaritans were despised by the Jews.
 - 1) After the Assyrians captured Israel, they resettled the land with foreigners (II Kgs. 17).
 - 2) Because those who resettled the land were not pure Jews, they were despised by the Jews in Judah.
- 2. They were hated in such a way that a Jew would go around Samaria instead of passing through it; often adding a couple of days to his journey.

- a. It would be the same as going from Tifton to Atlanta by way of Alabama because you hate Macon.
- b. Even though we consider this behavior ridiculous, this is what they did each time they went to Jerusalem.

C. Jesus was kind to those who were unthankful.

- 1. Only one man returned to thank Jesus for what He had done.
 - a. There is nothing said of the other nine.
 - b. Even though they never thanked Jesus for what He did, we do not read of them becoming lepers again.
- 2. Jesus was kind to the unthankful.
 - a. Jesus reminds us that even God is kind to the unthankful.
 - b. **Lk. 6:35b** - **For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.**

Practical Application

II. We must show the same type of kindness that Jesus showed to others.

A. Our kindness must involve action.

- 1. You cannot be kind to someone if you are not willing to help them.
- 2. Throughout the New Testament, we are told to do good to others.
 - a. **Gal. 6:9-10** - **And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. {10} Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.**
 - b. **I Jn. 3:17-18** - **But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? {18} My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.**
 - c. **Js. 2:15-16** - **If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, {16} and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?**

B. We must be kind to everyone, including our enemies.

- 1. **Lk. 6:27-36**
- 2. Even when others are not thankful for what we have done for, we must be kind to them.

C. Part of the criteria for eternal judgment will be based on how kind we were to people on this earth.

- 1. Part of doing the will of God is to show kindness to others.
- 2. **Mt. 25:31-46**

Conclusion:

Do we show kindness in the way that Jesus showed it by helping those in need?
 When someone is kind to us, do we act like the one Samaritan or like the other nine?
Titus 3:4 – Paul refers to the death of Christ as “the kindness and the love of God.”