

Pay It Forward with Acts of Kindness

Series: Fruit of the Spirit

September 6, 2015

INTRODUCTION

The Apostle Paul lists the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 – “But the Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” Today, we’re looking at the quality and the fruit of Kindness from Luke 10:25-37.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 10:25-37. Describe the context in which Jesus is telling this parable.
2. How is it possible to be able to correctly recite the greatest commandments in the Bible (Luke 10:27-28), and still not have them "installed" in your life?
3. How did the scribe (the expert of the Law) justify his actions? How do you think the priest and Levite in this story justified their actions?
4. Jesus wasn't reciting an historical incident; he was creating a hypothetical incident for teaching purposes. Why do you think that the hero of the story was a Samaritan? What was Jesus' point by including the Samaritan? How do you think the expert of the Law felt about it?
5. How are we to emulate the Good Samaritan by "doing likewise"? What is God speaking to you from this passage?
6. Read Matthew 5:43-48. How far is this business of being a neighbor supposed to go?

CONCLUSION

Jesus Christ practiced kindness that was radical for that time and culture. He always had great concern for women as well as men, for children as well as adults, for other races as well as the Jewish race, and for the sick and weak as well as the strong. As we look at the people around us, we, too, should be *moved with compassion*. We, too, should be helping, giving, sharing, caring, encouraging, extending mercy, filled with compassion and acting on it as we are able—in a word, *kind*.

Prayer - With each of us, may the fruit of kindness continue to grow. Above all, may we strive to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, who gives us the greatest example of loving-kindness.