

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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This week, Pastor Kim Gilliam, focusing on kindness. Defining kindness as a supernaturally generous orientation of our hearts toward other people, even when they don't deserve it or don't love us in return, a generosity of spirit.

Kindness is

- giving someone the benefit of the doubt when they probably don't deserve it
- being generous with your resources - your time, money, skills, your stuff.
- taking someone at their word.
- a heart that's delighted when good things happen for others.
- It's a spirit of generosity in all things.

God is kind. Jesus came so that we might know that kindness, so let's be kind, because this world needs to know the same kind God that we do.

"Kindness is loaning someone your strength instead of reminding them of their weakness." – Andy Stanley

SCRIPTURE

LUKE 7:36-50 NLT

³⁶ One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. ³⁷ When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. ³⁸ Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them.

³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She's a sinner!"

⁴⁰ Then Jesus answered his thoughts. "Simon," he said to the Pharisee, "I have something to say to you."

"Go ahead, Teacher," Simon replied.

⁴¹ Then Jesus told him this story: "A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. ⁴² But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?"

⁴³ Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt."

"That's right," Jesus said. ⁴⁴ Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn't offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume.

⁴⁷ "I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love." ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven."

⁴⁹ The men at the table said among themselves, "Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?"

⁵⁰ And Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out from Kim’s message?
2. Read Luke 7:36-50. What do you learn about each of the persons or people groups in the story?
3. How did the story Jesus told relate to the experience in Simon’s home?
4. How did Jesus show kindness to both the woman and Simon?
5. How does the world define or profess kindness? How is this different from the fruit of the Spirit kindness (or that modeled by Jesus)?
6. Who is someone you know who exhibits true Spirit-led kindness? What are examples of this kindness?
7. What gets in the way of authentic kindness for others? For you?
8. How can we pray for you?

PRAYER

Thank God for his kindness—loaning us his strength instead of reminding us of our weakness, and pray to lean on the Spirit to guide you into authentic kindness.