

Kindness: An Afterthought

How did you do after last week's lesson on kindness? I found myself thinking about kindness all week. Actually, I think 'kindness' was chasing after me!

Hurry! Be Kind! Monday morning on the road: "You weirdo! Don't cut in front of me. I'll show you." [Honnnnnnk! Speed around the cutter.] I waited at the next intersection with the cutter right behind me. Kindness is much more difficult when in a hurry. (Impatience is easy.) I don't think I've ever heard a parent instruct a child, "Hurry, be kind."

Love is patient. Love is kind. (1 Cor. 13:7)

After Me: Monday afternoon, home: I opened the door and there stood one of my children...right in the doorway. She pushed through and I barked. She should have been more considerate and allowed the other person to go first (me). There I was, empty-handed and quite able to step back myself and demonstrate a simple kindness. I don't think I taught a good lesson that day.

Teach them in your home, as you go along the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. (Deut. 6:7 paraphrased)

The Kindness of Others is Impressive:

Monday evening, popcorn: The microwave beeper sounded; popcorn ready; up Kris jumped. I told her I could get it and she sat back down. I later reflected on the number of times she took care of things and no one offered to help. I felt shame as I realized how many kindnesses are shown to me on a daily basis by my family.

The LORD is righteous in all His ways And kind in all His deeds. (Psalm 145:17)

The Grouch: Tuesday afternoon at the store: Before examining the labels on some items, I kindly stopped and asked

the store worker if my cart was in his way. His grunt was unintelligible so I began my research. A moment later the grouchy old fellow called to a coworker that he was unable to move his pallet because *people were in the way*. [Quick exit!] There are a few grouches out there who are not quick to respond to kindness.

But love your enemies, and do good... and your reward will be great; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. (Luke 6:35)

I Want to be Like That: Almost without thought, Kris and I named four couples who were greatly influential in our lives. Without discussion we agreed that we wanted to be like them. And what stood out in these couples? Kindness, of course. Oh the power of a good example.

Remember Dorcas? She was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did. (Acts 9:36)

Kindness at Every Turn: We are instructed in scripture to be hospitable, but that specifically applies to the home, not the workplace. Kindness is different. There is no 'right place' or 'right time.' It is appropriate at every turn on the path of life.

Because we encounter people every day we have many opportunities to show kindness. It could be as simple as holding a door or allowing extra space for someone to switch lanes while driving. It could be a kind word to a server at a restaurant or listening to your spouse *before* blathering about *your* day. Kindness is really, really simple, but opportunities are easily overlooked. Decide to be kind.

I have more to learn, how about you? How will you show kindness THIS week?

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