



CORNERSTONE REFLECTION GUIDE

JANUARY 12, 2025

Title: Cultivating Kindness: What Killed Kindness?

Preacher: Rev. Matt Tuggle

Scripture: Mark 2:13-17; Luke 6:35

All of us want more kindness. So, what stands between our desire for and our actual experience of more kindness? In other words, if all of us want more kindness, why do we not have a more kind society?

In this week's sermon, we look at Mark 2 in which Jesus is criticized for associating with tax collectors and sinners. Through Jesus' response and example, we learn what it means to cultivate kindness within us and around us, especially to those who might be considered to be undeserving of our kindness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stuck out to you about this sermon? Was there an idea that was particularly meaningful or challenging for you?
2. Read Mark 2:15-17 together. What does the Pharisee's criticism of Jesus reveal about their view of holiness and righteousness? How can we be prone to similar attitudes of judgment toward others and what can we learn from Jesus' response (v.17)?
3. Read Luke 6:35. What does this tell us about the heart of God? Being made in His image, how can we practically demonstrate and reflect God's nature to those around us, specifically as it relates to kindness?

4. Believing that someone must earn or deserve our kindness is a kindness killer. How is this the opposite of the way Jesus approached people and showed kindness?
5. Do you find it difficult to show kindness to certain kinds of people? What is it that makes it difficult to show kindness toward them?

WEEKLY PRACTICE

If we want to be known for our kindness, then we need to be people who are practicing radical generosity. As followers of Jesus, we believe that “it is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). Giving our time, resources, and talents not only helps us tap into the joy that comes through blessing others, it also breaks the gravitational pull our ‘stuff’ has on us. As we practice generosity, we actually rewire our hearts to be more loving, caring, and kind toward those around us.

This week, get creative with **random acts of kindness**. This could be anything from paying for someone's coffee to buying a stranger's meal at a restaurant, volunteering with your favorite non-profit to leaving a server the biggest tip you can afford.

Resist the kindness killer that someone must earn or is undeserving of your kindness and remember Jesus' example. How can you bless someone you don't know who might live a very different life or have different beliefs than you?