



October 4 – Kindness & Goodness – Fruit that Helps Us With Others

Kindness and goodness...two fruits of the Spirit that seem deceptively easy – until someone is difficult or acts somehow, in a way we don't like or approve of – then kindness and goodness can easily slip away. But we are promised this fruit is ours in the Spirit. So, how can we hang onto our own goodness and kindness when the world around us isn't? Join us this weekend and see!

Scripture:

Colossians 1:9-13 NLT

So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰ Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. ¹¹ We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, ¹² always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son...

Matthew 18:22-33 NLT

"Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. ²⁴ In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. ²⁵ He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. ²⁶ "But the man fell down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.' ²⁷ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt. ²⁸ "But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. ²⁹ "His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it,' he pleaded. ³⁰ But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. ³¹ "When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. ³² Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?'

Questions:

- Where are the places/times where you find it easy to be kind? To live goodness?
- Where are the places/times you struggle to be kind? To live goodness?
- Jesus calls us to be people who are good and kind – not just for our own sakes but for others. When we are good and kind the light of Jesus can shine brighter through us. How might you step into your relationship with Jesus to help you grow more goodness and kindness in your life?

Reading for the Week:

Monday: Ephesians 4:32

Tuesday: Micah 6:8

Wednesday: 1 John 3:17

Thursday: Philippians 2:3-4

Friday: Luke 6:35-36