

MEADOWVIEW MESSENGER
Meadowview United Methodist Church
Where Christian Caring Comes to Life

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The Pastor's Pondering:

Kindness: Luke 6:25-42

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. She described the situation in vivid detail so her students would catch the drama. Then, she asked the class: "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

When most of us think about the story of the Good Samaritan, throwing up is not the first thing that comes to mind. Perhaps that is because we focus less on the person in the ditch than on the Samaritan that helped. The Good Samaritan is a "feel good" story. It's a story of a good person helping someone along the road. It's a story of kindness and mercy. And we would all like to think we would behave just like the Samaritan did in Jesus' story. But I wonder if we would behave as the Samaritan behaved or would we just walk on our way.

ILLUS: There once was a new pastor at an inner city church who upon his arrival did not present himself as the new pastor, rather he put on old torn clothes and he had a long beard and he smelled. He sat at the front entrance of the church on his first Sunday morning of preaching. Many people passed him by but no one invited him inside and some even wanted to ask him to leave.

After everyone had gone in and shut the door to await the new pastor, the pastor got up and went inside. Everyone was stunned that he should have the audacity to come inside the church looking the way he did and the smell! The new pastor approached the pulpit and began to take off the offensive clothing and tied on beard. He stood in the pulpit announced that he was the new pastor.

People began to cry and beg for forgiveness. Some rushed to the altar. Some even thought the whole incident was a comedy act the pastor was presenting; they did not get the point at all. People passed by the pastor without paying him a second thought. Nobody seemed to care enough to even ask him about his situation.

As I studied the Scriptures dealing with kindness, I was shocked with what I found. I found the Bible teaches us that God's concept of kindness does not come easily to us.

In the Second Book of Samuel 9:1-13, David shows kindness.

Following the death of Saul and his sons in battle, David filled the leadership vacuum in Israel and Judah by consolidating his kingdom and administering judgment and justice to the people. During this time, an interesting event occurred:

Now David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" And there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "At your service!" Then the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan who is lame in his feet." So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Indeed he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar."

Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar. Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, "Mephibosheth?" And he answered, "Here is your servant!" So David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your

grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually." Then he bowed himself, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?"

And the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to his entire house. You therefore, and your sons and your servants, shall work the land for him, and you shall bring in the harvest, that your master's son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's son shall eat bread at my table always." Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will your servant do." "As for Mephibosheth," said the king, "he shall eat at my table like one of the king's sons." Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Micha. And all who dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants of Mephibosheth. So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table. And he was lame in both his feet. (II Samuel 9:1-13)

David's touching example of kindness reveals that he felt responsible to be merciful and kind because our great God had been exceedingly merciful and kind to him by forgiving much and giving much. He is a worthy example of one who loved much because he recognized that God loved him.

The best basis for kindly service to humankind is experiencing God's mercy toward us. Indeed, we can say that long before a person can be truly merciful, God has been merciful to them. "Religion is not pure and undefiled unless it manifests itself in this quality of kindly given service" (James 1:27). Perhaps from this example, we can draw the conclusion that we have not shown our brother or sister all the kindness we owe them unless we have shown them the "kindness of God."

Calendar for August 2019:

- 18 10:00 a.m. Bible study
- 25 10:00 a.m. Bible study
- 29 12:00 p.m. 5th Sunday Fellowship meal @ Shady Grove UMC
- 29 3:00 p.m. District Conference

Normal (repeating) schedule:

Sunday: Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Sunday: Choir practice @ 9:00 a.m.

Changes as of July 1, 2019:

On July 1, Pastor Doyle assumed the role of pastor of two churches: Shady Grove UMC and Meadowview UMC. She is preaching at Meadowview UMC at 9:30 a.m. and at Shady Grove UMC at 11:00 a.m. On Fifth Sundays, the two churches will worship together.

Sunday, September 29:

This is **Evangelism Sunday**. Meadowview and Shady Grove will worship together today at 11:00 a.m. at Shady Grove. We will take two offerings: Regular tithes and offerings (each church will take offering for their individual church), then an offering for Rev. Brooke Atchley and Elk Garden Ministries. A covered dish lunch will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Prayer Concerns for Our Church Family

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|--------------------|-------------------|
| Anita Coulthard | Joanna Dennstaedt |
| B Neese | Skeeter Yeatts |
| Peggy Bolling | Doris Quintana |
| Wade Blevins | Judy Briscoe |
| Lily Mehl | Georgia Moore |
| Wanda Kealey | Malcolm Nutter |
| Susan Rasnick | Linda Skeen |
| Mack Boyd | Christine Puttock |
| Jeremy Weaver | Beulah Stringer |
| Haley Charlton | Lynn Baggett |
| Tony Smith | Brien Shirey |
| Adeline Littleton | Diane Mash Jones |
| Christina Reynolds | Nairn Family |

*If you need to add someone to the prayer list or are ready to have someone taken off, please contact Annette Sumrell at shadygrove_umc@yahoo.com or 276-206-3243 (call or text).

Contact info for Pastor Barbara:

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NOTE: When referencing the pastor, please use "Pastor Barbara" or "Pastor" or "Pastor Barb."