

**Title: More kindness**  
**Pastor: Theo van Houten**  
**Date: 14 April 2013**  
**Time: 9:00am & 18:00pm**



**“A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.”**

-Saint Basil (329-379), Bishop of Cesarea-

**“How lovely to think that no one need wait a moment. We can start now, start slowly, changing the world. How lovely that everyone, great and small, can make a contribution toward introducing justice straightaway. And you can always, always give something, even if it is only kindness!”**

-Anne Frank (1929-1945), Diarist-

## **1. God is good – all the time**

**Psalm 145:9** The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

**Romans 2:4** God's kindness is meant to lead you to **repentance?**

## **2. God want us to represent Him**

**John 5:19** So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

**1 Cor 11:1** Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

## **3. What should I look like?**

**Galatians 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;

## **4. God is serious about how we represent Him**

**Romans 11:22** Note then the **kindness** and the **severity** of God: severity toward those who have **fallen**, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off.

## **5. To represent Him we must be in Him**

**John 15:4** **Abide in me**, and **I in you**. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

**John 15:5,8** <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bear much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

<sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you **bear much fruit** and so **prove** to be my **disciples**.

## 6. We will be known by our fruit and not our gifts

**Luke 6:43** "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit,"

**Luke 6:44-45** <sup>44</sup> for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. <sup>45</sup> The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

**Luke 6:46** "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?"

**Luke 6:48-459** <sup>48</sup> he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and **laid the foundation on the rock**. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. <sup>49</sup> But the **one who hears and does not do them** is like a man who built a house on the ground **without a foundation**. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great."

## 7. Our words indicate the condition of our hearts

**Ephesians 4:29-31** <sup>29</sup> Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> And do not **grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all **bitterness** and **wrath** and **anger** and **clamor** and **slander** be put away from you, along with all **malice**.

**Ephesians 4:32-5:2** <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. <sup>1</sup> Therefore **be imitators of God**, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup> And **walk in love**, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a **fragrant** offering and sacrifice to God.

**James 3:10-12** <sup>10</sup> From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup> Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? <sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

**James 3:13** Who is wise and understanding among you? By his **good conduct** let him **show his works** in the meekness of wisdom.

### Either bad fruit:

**James 3:14-16** <sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. <sup>15</sup> This is **not** the wisdom that comes down **from above**, but is earthly, unspiritual, **demonic**. <sup>16</sup> For where **jealousy** and **selfish ambition** exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

## Or good fruit:

**James 3:17-18** <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup> And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

## 8. The purpose of the word is that we bear fruit

**Mark 4:14** The sower sows the word.

### Nothing happens:

**Mark 4:15** And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when **they hear**, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.

### No root:

**Mark 4:16-17** And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.

### No Fruit:

**Mark 4:18-19** And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

### Bear MUCH Fruit:

**Mark 4:20** But those that were sown on the **good soil** are the ones who hear the word and **accept** it and **bear fruit**, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

## 9. Let's ask God to create a clean and pure heart in us

**Psalm 51:9-12** <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. <sup>10</sup> **Create in me a clean heart**, O God, and **renew a right spirit within me**. <sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> **Restore to me the joy of your salvation**, and uphold me with a willing spirit.