

## THE SONS OF THE MOST HIGH ARE KIND & MERCIFUL - Lk 6:35-36

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### INTRODUCTION

1. Lk 6:35-36 We are learning to be God's sons - personally: kindness as a character of our hearts so that we can be kind in our actions.
  - i. We are to be like our Father, revealed to us by the Son [Lk 10:22].
  - ii. We are to be like the Son, Jesus.
2. Our words express what is in our hearts: now, practical, relational kindness.

### 1st: The Disposition of Kindness & Mercy

1. Jesus to *be sons & be merciful* - more than wishful thinking: actual deeds & relational dynamics. Attitude determines actions. Not given a "check-list".
2. Kindness - sympathetic; meeting needs
3. Mercy - forming judgment; forebear & forgive.
4. The personal character of our Father: Ps 145:8 = Exo 34:6-7
  - i. kindness & mercy are theological realities
  - ii. Emblem in OT: the *mercy seat*: the Lord *gracious & merciful*.
5. In NCov - Jesus: propitiating High Priest - Hb 4:15-16 v15 - *sympathy*; knows our *weaknesses* - Isa 63:8b-9
  - i. LBC 1:1 "God w/o passions". To define "passions" we distinguish Theology from Christology.
    - a. Passions = a reaction to something that causes a change w/i us
    - b. God is w/o passions b/c God is. He does not become.
      - 1) We are like God, but God is not like us. We're emotional, so, isn't God?
      - 2) What about verses that speak of God in emotive terms?
    - c. Our emotions are usually "passions". Theologians use "affections" to speak of God. A passion is a reaction - an action from the outside to the inside. Affection is an emotive state that moves from the inside to the outside. God has no passions b/c He is perfect in His affections. God is love. God is hate. God is kind.
  - ii. Jesus is Son of God incarnate: human. His emotions includes passions. He is *sympathetic*: shared feeling. His suffering = "His Passion"
    - a. Jesus responds emotionally to our needs for mercy & kindness. Mat 9:36; KJV: Hb 4:15 *touched w/ the feeling of our infirmities*.
    - b. Jesus is our mediator - human embodiment of temple.
  - iii. What of verses that speak of God as tho human w/ anthropomorphisms & anthropathisms? Linguistic pointers to incarnaton of Son/Word
6. Cultivate a mindset - like Father's affections & compassion of Jesus.
7. Our kindness will be a reaction, but it is more than emotion: it is moral disposition of heart. Prv 3:3; Col 3:12; Eph 4:32; 1C 13:4; Gal 5:22-23
8. Regenerated hearts - new moral character evidenced personally. Cites Isa 49:8 [*day of salvation*]: 2C 6:3-10 - v6 - 2C 6:11-13. 1Th 2:7-8,11
9. Paul wanted to treat brethren kindly, w/ mercy - graciously.

### 2nd: The Demonstration of Kindness & Mercy

1. Mercy & kindness fosters life: Lk 10:37; 18:38-39.
2. Parable of Good Samaritan - neighbor *showed mercy*.
  - i. Lk 6:31 not given a "to do list" but sympathetic - foster life.
  - ii. Phil 2:4-5 sometimes it is not that we are heartless, just careless
3. 2C 7:11ff - zeal carves out ways to *demonstrate* itself; combines motives & acts to be expulsive [displaces, presses into life replacing death]

**Applic #1: Be Sons of the Most High - Kind & Merciful as Your Father**

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1. Rather than giving a list of deeds to do, Jesus gives us exemplars: our Father & Jesus Himself. [Jn 13:13-17](#)
  - i. v13-14 - actions of common servant done by Lord
  - ii. v15-16 - foot washing = example - [v17](#): *these things* that Jesus did. The *blessing* is found in the *doing*: *treat others* // *treat you*: same word.
2. Specificity? [Lk 6:35-38](#).
3. See yourself in the mirror of the Word [Jms 1:22-24]. Repent & be zealous to be kind like our Father who is kind to ungrateful & evil men.