

THE SONS OF THE MOST HIGH ARE PERSONALLY KIND - Lk 6:35-36
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INTRODUCTION

1. Lk 6:35-36 Challenge for self-absorbed people: Mat 24:12; Tit 1:12.
2. Mat 5:44-45 - interp the good thgs of this life as expressions of God's kindness & as His sons, imitate Him.
 - i. Kingdom ethic exceeds "ethic of reciprocity" [v32-34]
 - ii. Father is kind to ungrateful men & receives nothg in return. We are to imitate Him as sons of the Most High united to Jesus, THE Son.
 - iii. Cultivate an eternal perspective - reward will be great.
3. As men treat Father unjustly, so too His S/son/s - 1Ptr 2:19-25.
4. Pervasive idolatry is a cosmic injustice by God's enemies - those we are to love as followers of Jesus, the revelation of *God's kindness* [Tit 3:4]

1st: Our Kindness is Personal - Like Our Father's Kindness

1. Our ethic as sons is inherent in our new life in union w/ Jesus. Our obedience to commands is the evidence of our life in & love to Jesus.
2. The personal character of our kingdom kindness: *He Himself* [v35] & *just as your Father* [v36]. Some safeguards:
 - i. Jesus is our Mediator in & thru whom we relate to the Father [Jn 14:6].
 - ii. We relate to our Father an His sons in the Son - 1Jn 2:22-25 [Jn 1:18]
 - iii. We know God as He reveals Himself - apex of revelation is Jesus in whom we are sons of God Most High.
3. Our Father's love is revealed in His Son by His Spirit so that, in Jesus, we are embraced in the Father's love - Jn 17:25-26 [Eph 4:14-19]
4. Jesus calls us to know the Father & act like His sons in our dealings w/ men - w/ personal kindness - Ex 34:6-7a; 2C 1:3; Rm 12:1; Jms 5:11

2nd: Our Kindness is Personal - Like The Son of the Most High

1. Tit 3:5 - God's philanthropy is Jesus - the revelation of God's kindness to ungrateful & evil men.
2. Lk 6:35-36 - 1] *kind*: goodness + friendly sympathy by a superior; 2] *merciful*: grace & tenderness from a superior in face of evident wrong - desires reconciliation, peace, not tension, conflict.
3. Jesus *compassion* for people [Mat 9:36]. Visceral rxn to human need; see men in terms of eternity but presently in dire need.
4. We are to be embodiments of kindness in all facets of our humanity. God's program of love [Jn 3:16] is the transformed person [Jn 1:6].

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5. Kindness is personal. Kindness is a Person - Jesus.

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Applic #1: Let Us Ask Our Father to Mature Us in Heart-Kindness

1. Mat 5:48 *perfect* - mature, fully developed adult - arrive at goal. Personal maturation - transform entire humanity - 1Jn 3:2.
2. It begins in our hearts - evidenced by our words: *the mouth speaks that wh/ fills the heart* [Mat 12:34] & continually cultivated by God's words.
 - i. Words you take to heart from Father: *this is My Beloved Son, listen to Him* [Lk 9:35] - listen so as to be penetrated by the 2-edged sword & changed by the Word.
 - ii. Words expressed from heart to Father in prayer: Ps 139:23-24; 51:6
 - iii. Words spoken to others - Eph 4:29-5:2 as sons of Most High, our words carry a certain moral authority - affects conscience. Edify.
3. Practice words & be like your Father.