



DAY 21

BE OTHERS FOCUSED

"I rescued the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to assist them. The one who was dying blessed me; I made the widow's heart sing. I put on righteousness as my clothing; justice was my robe and my turban. I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame. I was a father to the needy; I took up the case of the stranger. I broke the fangs of the wicked and snatched the victims from their teeth" Job 29:12-17

Have you ever realised that when you are in a group photo, the first person that you look for is yourself! This happens almost every time. This shows that naturally we always look out for ourselves instead of others first. In the verses above, we get to see one man that God speaks highly of and we see that Job focuses on others. We could see the focus of Job's life and prosperity was the poor, the fatherless, the widow, the blind, the needy and the victims. No wonder God spoke so highly of him.

Jesus shared a parable of the Good Samaritan. Here a Jewish man was traveling and got attacked by some bad people. He was badly injured and lay on the side of the road. A pastor and a worship leader passed the man but didn't stop and help him. Now a Samaritan was passing by and saw the man. See Jews and Samaritans are like enemies, but this Samaritan was kind and saw that this man was injured and wanted to help the man. He had compassion for this injured Jew and because of that he helped the man.

Who do we want to be like? The pastor and worship leader who didn't help because maybe they were too busy rushing to church and didn't want to get dirty helping the injured man? Or the like the Good Samaritan who helped the injured Jew who meant to be his enemy?

Today, will God consider you the "finest" person like Job because your life is focused to help and serve others? Kindness must first start from the heart. A heart of compassion and an orientation towards 'others'.

PRAYER:

JESUS, FORGIVE ME FOR BEING SO FOCUS ON THE THINGS I WANT TO DO, PLACES I WANT TO GO AND PEOPLE I WANT TO HANG OUT WITH THAT I HAVE NOT STOPPED TO RESPOND TO THOSE NEEDS AROUND ME. HELP ME TO LIVE WITH A HEART TOWARDS BLESSING OTHERS.



DAY 22

LOVE MUST BE DEMONSTRATED

"If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth" 1 John 3:17-18

If we say we love, it cannot just be words that come out of our mouth. It has to be showed or acted out. How can we show love to others? Well there are 5 basic ways we can show love. It's called the five love languages. Each one has one that is their top love language. We need to know what other peoples love language are so that we can express it to them in a way they can appreciate it.

Here are the 5 love languages:

Words of affirmation: Saying something to encourage and to bring joy in a person. Send an encouraging word through sms, social media, call or send an email to a friend to tell them how awesome they are, or praise someone in public.

Gifts: Give a gift. The gift does not have to be expensive or really big but thoughtful. Find out what they like. It could be as simple as giving some flowers, buying a coffee or chocolate. Anything that they might like.

Quality time: Maybe spending some time to listen to the person maybe over break time or hang out with them.

Physical touch: while some people may appreciate a hug, a pat on the back. (but during this covid season, it is difficult because we need to practice social distancing)

Acts of Service: mow your neighbours' lawn, cook a meal for your parents or your friend, do the laundry for your parents when they don't ask you to, take care and pray for your brother or sister who is not feeling well.

Now what you can do is prepare a list of some of your friends and family and see what their love languages are and slowly try to show them some love with their love language!

PRAYER:

JESUS, HELP ME TO LOVE NOT JUST IN WORDS OR SPEECH, BUT IN ACTIONS AND IN TRUTH. HELP ME TO LEARN THE LOVE LANGUAGES OF OTHERS AND HELP ME TO MOVE BEYOND THE COMFORT OF MY OWN LOVE LANGUAGE TO BLESS THEM.



DAY 23

THE POWER OF KINDNESS

"...God's kindness leads you toward repentance..." Rom 2:4

Definition of oxymoron

Noun

ok-si-mawr-on | \, ɒk.sɪˈmɔː.rən \

1. two words used together that have, or seem to have, opposite meanings

Have you come across phrases joined by 2 opposite verses that you can use in a conversation? Yes, I'm sure you have, and I'm sure you'll also learn it at school. These words are called oxymorons. Some examples of them are, bittersweet, awfully good, open secret.

The best oxymorons are found in the Bible e.g. "love your enemies", "the first shall be the last", "if someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles". Today we are going to learn about something that is an oxymoron that we can put in practice. The power of kindness!

Powerful kindness sounds like oxymoron too. Power or powerful is usually related to something strong, tough or hard, and kindness is often associated with tenderness and niceness. Yet God's inspired kindness goes beyond being nice, it is a spiritual weapon that can soften a person's heart, change the atmosphere and climate of a community. Here, it says God's kindness can lead people to repentance. No other qualities has been mentioned as being capable of changing the trajectory of someone's life

PRAYER:

JESUS, I THANK YOU THAT YOUR KINDNESS LED ME TO REPENTANCE. FILL ME WITH YOUR SUPERNATURAL KINDNESS THAT I CAN BE A CHANNEL TO BRING SOMEONE CLOSER TO YOU THIS WEEK.



DAY 24

JUST START DOING SOMETHING

"Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin"
Zech 4:10

Has there been things that you wanted to do but it seemed too impossible or maybe because you were too young? Well this verse would speak to you. We can all start at that impossible thing. It is not about going big from the start, but its about starting small. See God encourages us to get things started even if it's something small.

Look at the story of the boy with the five loaves and two fishes. There was a big task, to feed all the people that were there. All they found was a young boy with some fish and bread. Jesus used that to feed more than 5 thousand people.

Jack Berne, a 10-year-old Aussie boy who watched the news on TV in 2018 and saw how the drought was affecting children just like him in rural communities. He came up with the idea to dress up as a farmer and bring five dollars to school to raise awareness and money for farmers. The project "A fiver for a farmer" was eventually picked up by the media. The project ended up raising \$1.5 million (original goal was \$20K) and in February this year, he won the Young Australian Award for outstanding community service. Not every good deed will end up winning an award, but a small idea and deed of kindness can snowball into something significant.

The verse we read today says, "but the Lord rejoices to see the work begin". Begin. Just begin. So, let's start with something even if it's only small. Turn your ideas or what you are thinking into action.

PRAYER:

JESUS, THANK YOU THAT YOU CAN TAKE THE LITTLE THAT I HAVE AND MAKE IT A MIRACLE. IT IS COMFORTING TO KNOW THAT IF I DO MY BEST, YOU WILL DO THE REST. IN YOUR GREATNESS, YOU HAVE EQUIPPED ME TO LOVE. LET ME LOVE MY NEIGHBOURS WITH PURE LOVE THAT RUNS FROM YOUR HEART THROUGH MINE. HELP ME TO START, TO GO BEYOND GOOD INTENTION, TO PUT IN ACTIONS THE IDEAS YOU PUT IN MY MIND.



DAY 25

SPIRIT EMPOWERED ACTS OF KINDNESS

“If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed” Acts 4:9-10

Just after the day of Pentecost, Peter and John filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, performed what was later described as “an act of kindness”.

What can you give when you don't have any money or valuable items? Well we get to see in the book of Acts Peter and John didn't have any money to give to the cripple man. They still wanted to give something, and they knew that they had something. They had the power of the Holy Spirit. They healed the man proclaiming it in the name of Jesus and the man stood up and walked.

Now, that act of kindness led to remarkable chain of events. The people “were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him...all the people were surprised and curious and came running to them”. Peter went on to share about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He made known to them that the act of kindness was accomplished by the name of Jesus.

Do you know you too can bring healing to the sick, freedom to the oppressed, wholeness to the broken in the Name of Jesus! Perhaps your friend at school is not feeling well, on top of giving a card, perhaps you can offer to pray for them. A spirit empowered acts of kindness has great power to change someone's life and the people around them.

PRAYER:

JESUS, LIKE THE APOSTLE PAUL, I PRAY THAT THE EYE OF MY HEART MAY BE OPENED, THAT I MAY KNOW THE INCOMPARABLY GREAT POWER FOR US WHO BELIEVE. THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN USE ME TO BRING HEALING TO THE SICK, FREEDOM TO THE OPPRESSED AND IN DOING SO, EXPRESS YOUR KINDNESS TO THOSE UNDER THE POWER OF THE ENEMY.



DAY 26

YOUR GOOD WORK WILL BE REMEMBERED BY JESUS

"For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me." Matt 25:35-36

Have you ever helped a friend in school or shared your snack with your brother or sister who was hungry?

I believe you have done that and as a follower of Jesus and there is nothing more awesome than this because when we love those in need, we are actually loving Jesus!

Jesus remembers all the kind action you offer and it may seem like a small thing, such as giving someone a cup of water when they are thirsty, comforting a friend when he is sad or helping your classmate with school work. Jesus tells us in Matt 25:40 that 'Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'

So remember to look out for ways you can help someone that may be in need today because when you are doing that, you are serving Jesus. They could be a friend, your parents or siblings in school, in your neighbourhood or at home.

PRAYER:

DEAR LORD, MAY YOU HELP ME TO BE KIND TO OTHERS TODAY IN SCHOOL, AT HOME OR IN MY NEIGHBOURHOOD. REMIND ME THAT I AM NOT JUST DOING FOR THAT PERSON BUT I AM DOING IT UNTO YOU, JESUS.



DAY 27

YOUR GOOD WORK WILL BE REMEMBERED BY OTHERS

"There was a believer in Joppa named Tabitha (which in Greek is Dorcas). She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor"
Acts 9:36

From Acts 9:36-42 tells us that there was a woman called Dorcas (or Tabitha in the Aramaic language). She was a woman who "was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor" in her city of Joppa. When she died everyone was very sad and when they heard that Peter was nearby, they begged him saying, "Please come as soon as possible!" When Peter arrived, all the widows were crying and showing the clothing that Dorcas had made for them. Peter sent all of them out of the room and prayed for her. Then, by the power of God Dorcas came back to life! There are several things we can learn from Dorcas.

Firstly, she believed in Jesus.

Secondly, the Bible says that she was "always" doing kind things for others. It is easy for us to be kind every once in a while but it is not easy when we choose to be kind to others constantly. Therefore, we must continue doing kind things for others at the end of this 40 days of love devotional.

Thirdly, she used her talents and gifts to serve others. Dorcas was really good at making clothes and she did not think lightly of this gift. So, is there something that you may be good at such as drawing, writing or singing. You may be able to make a card for someone you know or think of other ways you can serve them today.

PRAYER:

DEAR LORD, HELP ME TO LIVE A LIFESTYLE OF KINDNESS THAT WANTS TO CONSTANTLY SHOW KINDNESS TO OTHER PEOPLE BE IT AT SCHOOL, AT HOME OR IN MY NEIGHBOURHOOD.



DAY 28

FOLLOW THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, “Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia”. Acts 8:26-27

From Acts 8:26–40, we can see how Philip heard the voice of the Lord to “Go” and he obeyed. Philip’s obedience helped the Ethiopian official to understand more about God’s Word and because of this, the Ethiopian official began to follow Jesus.

God wants to speak to us every day. Have you taken the time to wait and listen to what God is trying to tell you? Jesus has given you a promise that you can know His voice and He expects you to take the time to learn to hear His direction. When we do this, we need to make sure that you go to a quiet place so that you can be still and listen to His voice.

You can also get your mom or dad to help you in learning to hear from God. God may speak to you through reading the Bible, worship songs or He may speak to you gently through your thoughts. Jesus tells us that His children hear and know His voice in John 10. So, we need to spend time learning to recognize His voice from the other voices in our head.

So, practice this today by going into your room and take away everything that might distract you. You can also get your parents to guide and help you hear from God today.

PRAYER:

FATHER, I THANK YOU THAT YOU PROMISE ME IN YOUR WORD THAT YOUR CHILDREN HEAR YOUR VOICE. I DESIRE TO LEARN TO HEAR YOUR VOICE MORE THAN I EVER HAVE BEFORE. TODAY I ASK THAT YOU SPEAK TO ME AS WHO YOU WANT ME TO REACH OUT TO OR BLESS.



DAY 29

WISDOM TO DISTINGUISH LOADS AND BURDENS

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ"

Gal 6:2

"each one should carry their own load"

Gal 6:9

In these two verses, we are told to carry each other's burdens as well as carry our own load. Two different Greek words are used.

The Greek word for "burden" is *bare*, which means excessive burdens. For example, you are told to carry a big bag of rice from the shops. It would be too heavy for just one person so you would get someone to step in to help you carry those burdens.

The Greek word for "load" is *phortion*. For example, a load is like your school backpack that you must carry daily. There are things you are responsible for yourself like your homework and cleaning your room.

When we offer acts of kindness, we should not expect anything in return. However, if you have to keep carrying someone else's burden all the time, stop and think again. Check if that person is capable of doing it themselves if given some encouragement. On the other hand, are you expecting others to carry your load? Do you need to start carrying some of your own load from today onwards?

PRAYER:

DEAR FATHER, HELP ME TO BE SENSITIVE TO THOSE AROUND ME WHO MAY BE CARRYING OVERWHELMING BURDENS THAT I CAN LEND MY STRENGTH TO. MAY YOU ALSO GIVE ME WISDOM TO KNOW WHEN I AM CARRYING SOME ELSE'S LOAD AND STOPPING THEM TO GROW AND MATURE.



DAY 30

REFUEL YOUR LOVE AND KINDNESS TANK

“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up” Gal 6:9

In your mom or dad’s car, you have probably seen the fuel meter that tells you that the car’s fuel is full or it is running low. If your parents decided to keep driving around even when the fuel meter is pointing towards empty, what do you think will happen? The car will stop and it won’t be able to move anymore.

So, it is the same for your body too. If you have just ran or cycled around the park for an hour with no rest, you will feel very tired and thirsty. When you are constantly showing kindness and helping others, you can feel tired too. Therefore, you need to stop and refuel daily by asking God for his strength.

This way, we are not doing it with our own strength because we may end up ‘Empty’, like the car fuel. We learn to ask God to fill us with His love so that we are able to continue giving or be kind. By running on a ‘Full’, we are able to keep going and not give up so easily. God promises that if we don’t give up, we will reap a harvest.

PRAYER:

DEAR LORD, HELP ME TO GET MY STRENGTH AND LOVE FROM YOU EVERYDAY. MAY I SHOW THE FRUIT OF LOVE AND KINDNESS IN MY LIFE. FILL ME UP TO ‘FULL’ TODAY SO THAT I CAN CONTINUE TO DO GOOD SO THAT ONE DAY, ALL MY FRIENDS WILL COME TO KNOW YOU, JESUS.