



30: Can You TRUST God's Kindness? (2 Samuel 10)

What if the very kindness of God you've been doubting is actually the mercy trying to bring you home? Today we'll see how the same kindness can lead one person into relationship and another into judgment, and why your response to God's goodness IS impacting your eternity...right now.

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teachingnotes

* All Scripture is from the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) unless otherwise noted.

In Samuel 9: David's kindness is extended & **RECEIVED**. Mephibosheth receives mercy and ends up at the king's table.

But in chapter 10: David's kindness is extended & **REJECTED**. Hanun humiliates the messengers & it ends in war.

Same king. Same kindness. Different response.

2 Samuel 10:1-3

Some time later, the king of the Ammonites died, and his son Hanun became king in his place. Then David said, "**I'll show kindness to Hanun** son of Nahash, just as his father showed kindness to me." So David sent his emissaries to console Hanun concerning his father. So David sent his emissaries to console Hanun concerning his father. However, when they arrived in the land of the Ammonites, the Ammonite leaders said to Hanun their lord, "Just because David has sent men with condolences for you, do you really believe he's showing respect for your father? Instead, hasn't David sent his emissaries in order to scout out the city, spy on it, and demolish it?"

King Nahash had **died** - an old enemy of King Saul (1 Sam 11), and seems to have become an ally of David - likely when Saul was chasing David. King David could have done what many others would have done - attacked a nation during the instability of a king's passing, before he successor was firmly established. But instead, David chose to **show kindness to Hanun** because of his father's kindness to David. This is the same term, **kindness** (*hesed*), that David showed to Mephibosheth.

This 40+ mile journey across the Jordan River likely took 2-4 days one way, to demonstrate David's care for the family of Nahash.

2 Samuel 10:4-5

So Hanun took David's emissaries, shaved off half their beards, cut their clothes in half at the hips, and sent them away. When this was reported to David, he sent someone to meet them, since they were deeply humiliated. The king said, "Stay in Jericho until your beards grow back; then return."

Cutting off one's beard was only done during a time of mourning and was NEVER done by another person. Having **half their beards** forcibly **shaved** off by another was a sign that one was under complete submission. Cutting their clothes in half was likely to expose their genitals and buttocks - humiliating! This is the kind of treatment that a conquering army force on a defeated army being led away as captives! Hanun rejected David's kindness and forced these men to carry that shame for days across the wilderness back to Jerusalem.

Before they got home, King David heard what occurred, and had them stay in **Jericho**, to regrow their beards, and keep them from humiliation. Jericho is about 17 miles away from Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 10:6-7

When the Ammonites realized they had become repulsive to David, they hired twenty thousand foot soldiers from the Arameans of Beth-rehob and Zobah, one thousand men from the king of Maacah, and twelve thousand men from Tob. **David** heard about it and **sent Joab and all the elite troops**.

This could have all been avoided, BUT...Hanun rejected David's kindness and mistreated his ambassadors. Hanun then paid around 75,000 pounds of silver for this help from the **Arameans** (1 Chr 19:6).

**BIG TRUTH: God's kindness RECEIVED leads to right relationship;
God's kindness REJECTED leads to righteous judgment.**

2 Samuel 10:8-11

The Ammonites marched out and lined up in battle formation at the entrance to the city gate while the Arameans of Zobah and Rehob and the men of Tob and Maacah were in the field by themselves. When **Joab** saw that there was a battle line in front of him and another behind him, he **chose some of Israel's finest young men** and lined up in formation **to engage the Arameans**. He placed the rest of the forces under the command of his brother **Abishai**. They **lined up in formation to engage the Ammonites**. "If the Arameans are too strong for me," Joab said, "then you will be my help. However, if the Ammonites are too strong for you, I'll come to help you."

It looks like the Hebrew troops are surrounded by their enemies on opposing sides, the Ammonites & the Arameans intending to crush the Hebrews in the middle, but the brothers are ready to send extra help where needed. ***It's GOOD to have brothers...and sisters who have your back!***

2 Samuel 10:12-14

Be strong! Let's prove ourselves strong for our people and for the cities of our God. **May the Lord's will be done.** Joab and his troops advanced to fight against the Arameans, and they fled before him. When the Ammonites saw that the Arameans had fled, they too fled before Abishai and entered the city. So **Joab** withdrew from the attack against the Ammonites and **went to Jerusalem**.

Be strong isn't just a random phrase - this is the phrase from Yahweh given to Joshua "Haven't I commanded you: **be strong** and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9) They were asking and trusting **Yahweh's will be done**. And, has been the case for David since he has been king, his army routes his enemies and then return home **to Jerusalem**.

2 Samuel 10:15-19

When the Arameans saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they regrouped. Hadadezer sent messengers to bring the Arameans who were beyond the Euphrates River, and they came to Helam with Shobach, commander of Hadadezer's army, leading them. When this was reported to **David**, he **gathered all Israel**, crossed the Jordan, and went to Helam. Then the Arameans lined up to engage David in battle and fought against him. But **the Arameans fled before Israel**, and David killed seven hundred of their charioteers and forty thousand foot soldiers. He also struck down Shobach commander of their army, who died there. When all the kings who were Hadadezer's subjects saw that they had been defeated by Israel, **they made peace with Israel and became their subjects**. After this, the Arameans were afraid to ever help the Ammonites again.

This massive battle took place across the Jordan way up North - east of the Sea of Galilee - in **Helam**, a 150+ mile journey that David's army marched from Jerusalem! This is a DECISIVE battle, and once again - David has conquered his enemies.

Yahweh has once again helped David & the Israelites conquer another powerful enemy. And now, the Arameans, whom the Ammonites had hired to help war against David, are forever out of the fight.

NONE of this had to happen. All of these battles started because **the Ammonites REJECTED the kindness of David**, thinking that he intended them harm rather than bless them. So, instead of receiving David's kindness, they stiff-armed his kindness & CHOSE to become his enemy.

REAL LIFE APPLICATION

"Can YOU Trust God's Kindness?" Have you *received* His kindness OR...have you *rejected* it?

Romans 2:4-5

Or do you despise the riches of his kindness, restraint, and patience, not recognizing that **God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance**? Because of **your hardened and unrepentant heart** you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment is revealed.

Have you PAUSED and recognized how kind God has been to you?

- God provides for us - meals, health, homes, clothing.
- **God has demonstrated His LOVE to the whole world!** "God so loved the WORLD that He gave..." (John 3:16)
- And how much **restraint and patience** has God shown us?
- The reason Jesus hasn't returned is because of **His patience**, "not wanting any to perish, but all come to repentance." (2 Pet 3:9)

If you have RECEIVED God's kindness instead of REJECTING His kindness, then God wants you to extend His KINDNESS to others - so that THEY will be led to repentance as well. People are NOT going to listen to our message if we are MEAN, arrogant, or impatient.

➤ Look for opportunities to EXTEND God's kindness to our lost friends and family!

**BIG TRUTH: God's kindness RECEIVED leads to right relationship;
God's kindness REJECTED leads to righteous judgment.**

Romans 2:6-11

He will repay each one according to his works: **eternal life** to those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality; but **wrath and anger** to those who are self-seeking and disobey the truth while obeying unrighteousness. **There will be affliction and distress for every human being who does evil**, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek; but **glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does what is good**, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. For there is no favoritism with God.

God's judgment in handing down **affliction and distress** OR **glory, honor, and peace** isn't based on your race, or the decisions your family has made in the past. How you respond to God's kindness is for YOU to DECIDE.

- **Can YOU trust God's kindness?** Will you *RECEIVE* His kindness and *RESPOND* in obedience to turn from sin and turn to Him?
- OR...will you **REJECT His kindness** somehow thinking that God intends you evil...as Hanun thought of David?

**BIG TRUTH: God's kindness RECEIVED leads to right relationship;
God's kindness REJECTED leads to righteous judgment.**

Trust the heart of God. The cross proves His motives. Jesus did not come to manipulate you. He came to save you.

heretoseveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives: Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Noel & Patricia Barnes** (813-767-2881), **Derek & Emily Beaty** (813-763-4421), or **Chris & Caitlin Day** (850-673-7920), **Glen & Margie Peacock** (850-464-1484).

Discussion questions

These questions are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your family, friends, or small group.

Observation: What does the text show?

1. **Read 2 Samuel 10:1-5.** What details in the text make it clear David's kindness toward Hanun was genuine and not manipulative?
2. Why do you think Hanun listened to suspicious advisors instead of trusting David's kindness? What does this reveal about fear, pride, and leadership?
3. What were the real consequences of misreading David's kindness in this chapter? Trace the movement from suspicion → humiliation → war → defeat.

Heart Exposure: Where do we do this with God?

1. In what areas of life are people most tempted to misinterpret God's kindness as control, restriction, or threat?
- suffering, delayed answers, conviction over sin, hard commands, discipline, surrender
2. Have you ever experienced a time when God's kindness did not initially feel kind?
Looking back now, how do you see His goodness in it?
3. How does **Genesis 3** show the same temptation to distrust God's motives? In what ways does the serpent still use that strategy today?

Gospel: How does Jesus settle the question?

1. **Read Romans 2:4-11.** According to Paul, what is God's kindness meant to produce in us?
2. How does the cross of Jesus prove that God's heart toward sinners is mercy and not manipulation?
3. Which response best describes where you are right now: receiving God's kindness, resisting His kindness, confusing His kindness for permission, taking His patience for granted. *What needs to change?*

Mission: How should we live?

1. Rosaria Butterfield's story shows how ordinary hospitality became the doorway to repentance.
How can your kindness toward someone this week become a way God draws them to Himself?
2. Who in your life may currently be distrusting the kindness of God because of pain, disappointment, or skepticism?
How can you patiently represent Christ to them?
3. What is one specific way your group or family can extend God's kindness this week so others might be led toward repentance?