

Soap Box: Be Nice

BE NICE!!

I have noticed that the world around us is changing.....

Being Kind, Being Nice, Chivalrous, Helpful....Isn't Common Place
It seems to be the exception

Abby and I have tried to raised our girls to be nice....it's what we expect

“IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE TO BE NICE.....DO IT”

The Bible actually says something about this...

Matthew 7:12 (NIV)

12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

It's the Golden Rule

Treat others the way you want to be treated.
If you have a chance to be nice....do it.....

Being Nice, Kind, Loving isn't just something you do.....
it becomes who you are...

-As we serve him....live for him...we value what he values
OTHERS....PEOPLE....and our action is kindness & love

John 13:34-35 (NIV)

34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

People around us should know that we have been with Jesus

Simply by the way we live
It should be obvious.....recognizable....something different

Acts 4:13 (NIV)

13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

What a huge compliment.....they looked like they were ordinary men
The way they were living was extraordinary
They must have been with Jesus!

May that be said of our lives!
May people see our kindness, love, boldness, persistence.....say...
IT'S NOT JUST THEM.....IT'S JESUS!!

We no longer live for us...we live for HIM
It's not how most people live....so it stands out

What does that even look like....practically in our lives today?

Jesus taught on it In John 13 when he washed his disciples feet.
This is one of the Truths that is a lifelong Goal of mine....

Right at the end of the His ministry on earth
He uses it to teach them how to SERVE (LIVE FOR HIM)

This is what was on Christ's Heart:

John 13:1-5

*¹It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, **he now showed them the full extent of his love.**^[a] ²The evening meal was being served, and the **devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.** ³Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and **began to wash his disciples' feet**, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

“Began to wash his disciple’s feet”

Task normally performed by a **servant**

Why would he do this?

It “showed them the full extent of his love”

Full extent of his Love was to SERVE

He showed them how to not live for themselves....but to live for him.

AND... Not just the ones that deserved it!

“the devil had already prompted Judas.... To betray Jesus”

He washed Judas?

He had the right to TOSS Judas out

Instead.....He served him..

This is what it means to Live for Him...

Being Kind even when those around you aren't.

Luke 6:27-31 (NIV)

27 “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

This is Absurd/Against our Culture

Against every natural bone in our bodies

Living for him leads us to serve people

EVEN those who don't deserve it.

WHAT WOULD OUR MARRIAGES LOOK LIKE?

WHAT WOULD OUR FAMILIES LOOK LIKE?

HOW WOULD WE FEEL ABOUT OUR JOBS?

We are not suppose to wait until we get some respect to serve

WHEN WE SPEND TIME WITH JESUS....HE CHANGES US AND WE START LIVING FOR HIMNOT OURSELVES.

John 13:6-8 ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, **"Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."**

"Unless I wash you, you have no part with me"

UNLESS YOU GET THIS YOU DON'T GET ME...

We must strive to get the Heart of Christ!

Jesus left that dinner and displayed the greatest act of Selfless servanthood.

Him without sin...took on the sin of the world

He wasn't living for himself

Everyday we are presented with opportunities to be kind...Serve.

We think we taking care of us will make us happy.....it doesn't

God built us to model his love...

Nothing is more fulfilling than that!

Who are you living for? Are you living for him????

Can people tell that you have been with JESUS?

Do kindness & Love mark you?