

Advance to the Manger — Day 22

Advance in Kindness

Ephesians 4:32 TPT

”But instead, be kind and affectionate toward one another. Has God graciously forgiven you? Then graciously forgive one another in the depths of Christ’s love.“

Introduction:

Spreading Kindness

- Read Scripture: Ephesians 4:32
- Reflect on the importance of kindness in our interactions.
- Encourage intentional kindness throughout the Christmas season.

As we approach the manger, we are reminded of the kindness and love that God displayed by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world. The Christmas story is a beautiful example of God's kindness and compassion towards humanity. In Ephesians 4:32, the apostle Paul encourages us to imitate God's kindness in our relationships with one another.

Thayer's

1. fit, **fit for use**, useful
 - a. virtuous, good
2. **manageable**
 - a. mild, pleasant (as opp. to harsh, hard sharp, bitter)
 - b. of things: more pleasant, of people, kind, benevolent

Strong's

From [G5530](#); *employed*, that is, (by implication) *useful* (in manner or morals): - better, easy, good (-ness), gracious, kind.

Mounce's

easy, good; kind, loving, benevolent

Heart Reflection

1. Embracing Kindness:

The journey to the manger begins with embracing kindness as a way of life. Kindness is more than being polite or doing good deeds; it is an attitude of the heart that seeks the well-being and happiness of others. Just as God's kindness was demonstrated through the gift of His Son, we are called to extend that same kindness to those around us. By showing kindness, we reflect the character of God and bring light into a world that desperately needs it.

2. Tenderheartedness and Compassion:

To advance towards the manger in kindness, we must cultivate a tender heart and a spirit of compassion. When we have a tender heart, we are sensitive to the needs and feelings of others. We take the time to listen, understand, and empathize. Compassion moves us to action, prompting us to reach out and help those who are hurting or in need. As we approach the manger, let us open our hearts to the needs of others and respond with kindness and compassion.

3. The Power of a Kind Word or Action:

A kind word or action has the power to transform lives. It can bring comfort to the brokenhearted, encouragement to the discouraged, and hope to the hopeless. In a world that often values self-interest and indifference, our acts of kindness can make a significant difference. As we advance towards the manger, let us be intentional about extending kindness to those we encounter. Let our words and actions reflect God's love and bring joy and peace to those around us.

Call To Action

- **Cultivate a Kind Heart:**
 - Take time to examine your heart
 - Ask God to help you cultivate kindness.
 - Pray for a heart that is tender and compassionate towards others.
 - Ask God to reveal any areas where you may need to grow in kindness
 - Seek His guidance in becoming more like Him.

- **Look for Opportunities to Show Kindness:**
 - Be intentional about looking for opportunities to show kindness to others.
 - It could be a simple act of kindness like:
 - holding the door for someone,
 - offering a listening ear
 - performing a random act of kindness.
 - Allow the love of Christ to flow through you and touch the lives of those around you.

- **Practice Kindness in Challenging Situations:**
 - Kindness is not always easy, especially when we encounter difficult people or challenging situations.
 - As followers of Christ, we are called to respond with kindness even in the face of adversity.
 - Pray for the strength and grace to choose kindness, even when it is difficult, and trust that God will work through your acts of kindness.

Take A Way

As we advance towards the manger, let us be reminded of the kindness and love that God has shown us through Jesus Christ. May we embrace kindness as a way of life, cultivating a tender heart and a spirit of compassion. Let us be intentional about extending kindness to those around us and be a reflection of God's love in this world. May our lives be a testimony to the transformative power of kindness as we journey towards the manger and beyond.

Prayer:

Oh Lord,

thank you for the gift of kindness through the birth and life of Jesus. Help us to embrace kindness in our lives, to be compassionate and loving towards others. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we may reflect your kindness in every aspect of our lives. May our kindness bring healing, hope, and encouragement to those around us. In Jesus' name, amen.