


## TALKING WALKING POINTS

A publication of  the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

### Part Three: Love Kindness

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Guest Speaker

Micah 6:8  
Do Justice.  
Love Kindness.  
Walk Humbly.

2021.6.20



**Talk** together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11  
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

## Questions for Discussion & Reflection

- 1 What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you?  
...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
- 2 Have you ever heard (or thought!) something like this: *"I like Jesus—he's kind and compassionate—but that God of the Old Testament is so vengeful!"*? How would you respond to that statement now? (If necessary, review Exodus 34:6-7; Deuteronomy 7:7-9 and Micah 7:18-20 in the [Sermon Outline](#).)
- 3 As a group, generate a list of things our culture promotes as acts of kindness.  
In what ways are those acts similar to God's *hesed*? How are they different?
- 4 Read Lamentations 3:1-33, noting the shocking change in tone and content beginning at v. 21. Is the author **rational?!**  How do you explain his hopefulness in the midst of unrelenting pain? (Note that the word *hesed* appears in v. 22 and 32.)
- 5 Make a list of all of the hardships the author experienced (eg. v. 8 God turns a deaf ear to his prayers).
- 6 Many people would become bitter in such a situation; how do you think this author avoids bitterness?  
How does knowing the **character** of God help us not become bitter?  
How do the **promises** of God help us not become bitter?
- 7 What is the "severest mercy" you've received from God's hand? How can a deeper knowledge of *hesed* help you have hope amid pain?

Need help living a life of "hesed"?

write to:

[BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com](mailto:BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com)

## Application-Challenge

**Relate Rightly to God.** Immerse yourself in the study of God's character. Call it to mind often. This is the foundation for living the *hesed* life.

**Relate Rightly to Others.** Mercy and kindness will overflow to others as you ponder the mercy and kindness God has shown you.

- 1 Standard “softball” opening question. If any points of the sermon confused folks, take a few moments to review the Sermon Outline/Notes to clear up an confusion.
- 2 Encourage honesty on this question. Sometimes folks are embarrassed to admit to reactions such as this. The second part of this question asks folks to use this sermon’s content to answer that objection. (It’s interesting to note that Americans’ favorite verse—John 3:16—doesn’t say that Jesus loves us, but that God does. Jesus, of course, does love us, since all members of the Trinity share the same attributes. Nonetheless, it was the love of that “vengeful Old Testament God” that initiated salvation!)
- 3 Before your group meets, Google “acts of kindness” and prepare a list so, if needed, that you can be ready to prime the pump. Then, after you’ve created a list, work on the list of ways *hesed* is similar and different from this world’s “acts of kindness”. One key way will be the costliness of the act: while folks may be willing to pick up a \$10-15 tab for the person behind them in the McDonald’s drive thru, they wouldn’t be willing to pay it if the bill were \$10,000-15,000! But God’s *hesed* paid with the blood of Christ!
- 4 Wrestle through this passage—it’s fascinating! (Note: I referred to “the author” only because most people don’t know right off hand the biographical details of the Prophet Jeremiah, who wrote Lamentations. Lamentations was written right after Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians, and as the Jews were about to be carried off into exile. It was a dark time, and Jeremiah (aka “the weeping prophet”) felt deep sadness at the pain that lay ahead of his beloved people.)
- 5 Try and be exhaustive on this list—it’ll make the following question even more consequential.
- 6 Bitterness is a real risk (see Psalm 73)! Help your group work hard at being honest and authentic when answering this one. The benefit it can bear in peoples’ lives is directly tied to the honesty with which we answer it.
- 7 **Definitely** come prepared to share your own story, if others are reluctant. **On the other hand**, be comfortable with an extended silence as others think (and decide whether or not they’re willing to be this open with others in the group). One way to “prime the pump” would be to very briefly share your story (eg. “I think that the multiple miscarriages we experienced have been our hardest trial...”), but then quickly re-ask the question of the group: “What is the ‘severest mercy’ **you’ve** received from God’s hand?” Then, leave some time for others to volunteer, if they will. Only then should you go onto the final part of the question (“How can a deeper knowledge of *hesed* help you have hope amid pain?”).

# Sermon Outline

## How the World Views Kindness

### Love Kindness

He has told you, O man, what is good and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

**Micah 6:8**

**Kindness Defined:** " \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ favor given freely for another's good."

### The kindness of God

Hebrew: "*hesed*"

God's *hesed*

Micah on *hesed*

Delighting in *hesed*

Showing *hesed*

Focus on God's character

### Kindness between brothers

*Hesed* withheld

*Hesed* manifested

### Application-Challenge

- Relate Rightly to God
- Relate Rightly to Others

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

**Exodus 34:6-7**

It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

**Deuteronomy 7:7-9**

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

**Micah 7:18-20**

## Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

**"Five Question Bible Study"** (see page below) *is a simple way to study any passage. We can use it to understand the biblical truth about "hesed"...*

**Monday**—Read Hosea 2:18-20. Describe God's future *hesed* toward rebellious Israel.

**Tuesday**—Read Isaiah 54:5 & Jeremiah 31:32. How are both "marriage partners" described?

**Wednesday**—Read Lamentations 3:22 & 32. Notice what all results from God's *hesed*.

**Thursday**—Read Isaiah 54:10. How stable is God's *hesed*?

**Friday**—Read Zechariah 7:9. How do we "love *hesed*" in our daily lives?

**Saturday**—***In preparation for worshipping the risen Lord with your church family,***  
study Micah 6:1-8.

Bible Text: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]