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Beyond Nice

Series: *The Fruit of the Spirit – Living a Life that Pleases God*
Galatians 5:22 & Luke 7:36-50

Central Thought: Kindness is an aspect of the fruit of the Spirit keeps us from being toxic, deadly or devastating in our relationships.

Kindness is: _____

Luke 7:36–50 (NIV) — **36** When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. **37** A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. **38** As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. **39** When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner." **40** Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. **41** "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. **42** Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" **43** Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. **44** Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. **45** You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. **46** You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. **47** Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." **48** Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." **49** The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" **50** Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

- ❖ The self-righteous religious leader didn't offer Jesus the commonly accepted hospitality (kindness) of the day.
 - ❖ Question: Who is most likely to appreciate God's love, mercy, forgiveness and kindness?
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- ❖ The woman (the uninvited guest) many sins were forgiven.
- ❖ Your actions demonstrate your repentance and acceptance of God's salvation.

Final Thoughts

- ❖ In 1 Corinthians 13, the Apostle Paul reminds us that love is patient and kind. (See also 2 Peter 1:5-9)
- ❖ Let's yield to the Spirit and let him make us much more than just nice!