

# midtown

## M E S S E N G E R

Volume 5, Issue 45

November 6, 2022

## Be Nice Anyway

By: David Sproule

**D**o you feel like it's harder to be nice these days? Some people today are extremely negative, extremely hurtful and extremely vile. Some people today throw niceness back in the face of those who extend it. Some people today make being nice awfully hard. *Be nice anyway!*

When your own family members let you down, say things that hurt, forget to do things they promised to do, ignore your efforts to show kindness, dump everything on you and expect you to handle it all, fail to do their part with household and family needs, act one way at home and a completely different way at church, don't seem to trust you, make selfish decisions...*be nice anyway!*

When your friends—even some friends that you thought were your “good friends”—disappoint you, make choices that slight you, treat others better than they treat you, are not always consistent, seem to be hot or cold around you without explanation, talk about you behind your back, choose to hang out with others instead of you, befriend some folks you don't particularly like, forget special days or special events, seem to ignore your messages...*be nice anyway!*

When your coworkers lie about you, cheat to gain an advantage over you, laugh at you, cuss you out, take credit for something you did, refuse to uphold their responsibility, leave

messes for you to clean up, turn people against you, manipulate the system against you, are hateful toward you, ostracize you, make things as difficult as possible for you, think they can walk all over you because you're a Christian...*be nice anyway!*

When your own church family members—the very ones who should know better—seem to avoid you, have been rumored to spread gossip about you, are obviously acting hypocritical, say things that cut you to the core, try to act like they were “only joking” when they hurt you, don't invite you to something when they've invited “everyone else,” seem to refuse to respond to your efforts to contact them, dishearten you, don't do what you think they should do...*be nice anyway!*

When people in the world mistreat you, mess up your food order, cut you off in traffic, cut you in line at the store, take forever to check out at the store, lie about you online, steal from you, lose something that belongs to you, find satisfaction at your misfortune, refuse to do even the smallest thing to help you, insult you, exploit you, capitalize on your mistakes...*be nice anyway!*

Are you kidding? Be nice anyway? Why? First, it is what Jesus would do! Second, it is actually what Jesus did! Third, it is what the Bible teaches us to do (**Rom. 12:14-21**)! Fourth, it is the only way to go to heaven (**Matt. 5:11-12**)!

# Three Ways Thanksgiving Should “Pay”

Selected Article

**D**o you have much for which to be thankful? Sometimes in moments of despair and distress, it is hard to keep our minds focused on the positive and the copious reasons that we have to be optimistic and thankful persons. Perhaps a look at a passage in Luke 17 can help us to be reminded of some simple steps we can take to be more thankful.

If you were a leper in the first century and someone healed you wholly and instantly, would you be thankful? There’s no better word to describe the emotions that would flood your soul! Do you know what is even better than being healed of the horrible physical malady of leprosy? Being healed of the deadly spiritual malady of sin! The question for us is—do we respond like the nine unthankful lepers or like the one thankful leper in Luke 17?

In Luke 17, all ten lepers wanted the same thing of Jesus—“Have mercy on us!” (17:13). All ten lepers obeyed what Jesus told them to do—“Go, show yourselves to the priests” (17:14). All ten lepers received the same wonderful gift—they were “cleansed” (17:14). But, were all ten lepers thankful? One would think so, but the evidence is not there, because the response of thankfulness was not forthcoming. Except from “one of them” (17:15). What are three things that we can do, which this one thankful leper did, to be more thankful and to express our thankfulness to our Savior? Look at verses 15 and 16.

**First, pay attention.** The leper “saw that he was healed.” The other lepers were apparently too busy and too selfish. Let us not become so busy with life and so selfish in our own desires that we forget to pay attention and intentionally notice each and every way that the Lord blesses us.

**Second, pay a visit.** The leper “returned” to Jesus. Sometimes we might be like the nine lepers—we probably notice the blessings but don’t “return” to the Lord, from whom all blessings come, to acknowledge (at the very least) the fountain of all of these blessings. Let us spend more time with the Lord, and make sure that time is filled with thanking and not just asking.

**Third, pay homage.** The leper “with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks.” Three things jump out: (1) he paid homage with a loud voice, (2) he paid homage with great humility, and (3) he paid homage over and over and over (as the present tense verbs emphasize). Let us seek to also overflow with exuberant praise to the one who overflows us with blessings.

Do you have much for which to be thankful? Even in times of despair and distress, let us turn back to our Savior!



## Upcoming Events

TODAY!: Ladies Day planning meeting in the fellowship hall at 4pm.

Sun. Nov. 13: Youth Devotional at the building hosted by the Siegel's after evening worship.

Area Events (More info on the bulletin board in the hallway):

Nov. 12: Bible Bowl 2022 at Weber Road

## Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Joyce Faires who had surgery on her wrist last week.

## Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick, Faye Henderson.

Reminder: Please pick up contact information stickers for new members on the table in the foyer for your pocket directories.

Food Helpers for the month of Nov. - Team A.

## Service Roster

Week of November 6, 2022

### Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading.....Fred Scherffius  
Song Leader.....Rick Bass

Opening Prayer.....Ken Dorries  
Closing Prayer.....Jeff Cannady

### Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread.....Kevin Sheeran  
Cup..... Doug Jobs  
Offering.....Mike Atkinson  
Assist.....Jack Jobs  
Assist..... Willie Fossati  
Assist..... Luke FitzSimmons

### Sunday Evening

Song Leader.....Ken Dorries

Opening Prayer..... Doug Jobs  
Closing Prayer..... Clifton Rutherford

Lord's Supper & Offering..... ... Doug Jobs,  
Kevin Sheeran

### Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Brandon Starling  
Song Leader.....Ken Dorries  
Devotional.....Bryant Siegel

### Other

Prepare Communion.....Siegel Family

## Congregational News

### Birthdays

Marva Hill.....Nov.6  
Lupe Escojido, Jr.....Nov. 10

### Anniversaries

Dan & June Fielder.....Nov. 10

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030.

## Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons  
Ron White

## Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism  
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence  
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

## Our Preacher

Brandon Starling

## Weekly Reading

“And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and  
given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice  
to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

Ephesians 5:2

## Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.  
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

## Attendance Records

Week of October 30, 2022

A.M. Bible Class.....79  
A.M. Worship.....95  
P.M. Worship.....58  
Wednesday Bible Class.....59

*Financial information is located on the bulletin  
board in the hallway.*

## Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*  
B.K. York *Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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**midtown**  
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