

The Sweet Kindness of our King

21 - Walking with Jesus
Church on the Park | Sunday, 19 July 2015

Text: Lamentations 3:19-26; Exodus 34:5-7

Theme: God's kindness is like honey dripping from the honeycomb. The Lord wants you to taste his kindness and live by his sweet love.

Intro: For a couple of months before I left, I have been teaching from Exodus 34:5-7. I thought that when we returned from our road trip I might speak from a different passage of Scripture. But the whole time away God kept highlighting to me his character, especially his kindness. Today, we will focus on the sweet kindness of God and how it's essential to know God in order to walk with him.

1) Like a honey-laden hive, God's love overflows with sweet kindness to you (Exo. 34:6-7).

- "...**abounding** in **lovingkindness** and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands..." (Exo. 34:6-7).
- God's **kindness** is like **honey** dripping from an **overloaded** honeycomb.
- **Why** do we need to **hear** this? We are so **overwhelmed** by the **cruelness** of the world that it's easy for our **view** of God to get **distorted**.
 - If your view of God is distorted you will **not** walk with **joy**, but with your head down and your heart shaken with **anxiety**.
- While traveling, the Lord **highlighted** to me his kindness. Everywhere in the word I saw this word (lovingkindness) and it stood out to me like an object in a **3D** movie. I could feel the **weight** of the word and touch it every time I came across it.
- Then the Lord reminded me about how **each day** he was **showing** his **kindness** to us. **Otai** in the morning. Upgrade on **Gold Coast**. A few people gave us **pocket money** for our trip...This **week** some gave us some money for **coffee**. Then, I **lost** my **wallet** and the man at the cafe paid for my cup of coffee.
- Everyday look for God's kindness: **Lamentations 3:19-26**.
 - Every morning the Lord has **new kindness** to bestow on you, it is overflowing from him.
 - God's kindness is like the **dew** that gently hydrates the plants every morning.
 - The **dew** of **Dorrigo**
- Notice, **Lamentation 3:19-26** is God's **kindness** found in the **fiercest** of all **trials**: loss, death, devastation, disappointment and displacement.

2) Every beast that tries to devour you is a potential blessing (Judges 14:5-9).

- It blesses those who **overcome**.
- Think of the word **overcome**: "**Over-Come**". Overcomers are those who get **over** whatever **comes** at them. They also get **over** whatever **mountain** they **come to**.
 - The **blessings** promised in the book of **Revelation** are for the **overcomer**.
- **Samson** in **Judges 14:5-9** is an illustration of this
 - Let's **paint the picture**
 - As Samson is traveling and reaches the **vineyards** a young **lion** comes **roaring** at him.

- *Now, what would we do in **today's culture**? We would probably **run** away and then pay for a whole year of **therapy** to recover from the **shock**.*
- Remember **Christian's encounter** with the two lions in **Pilgrim's Progress**
 - **Mistrust** and **Timorous** had **run** away in **fear** of them
 - **Christian** himself was **tempted** to turn back, but the **Porter** at the Lord's house told him that the lions were **chained** and were there to **test** the **hearts** of those who come, whether they have true **faith** or not.
- *How does **Samson respond** to the lion? His response teaches you how you can **overcome adversity**.*
 - The **Spirit of the Lord** comes mightily upon him and he **tears** him up with his bear hands
 - This is what you need to be **like** when a '**beast**' tries to **devour** you.
 - **First**, ask for the **power** of the **Spirit**. Then, **attack** what is trying to kill you.
- In the same way, **Christ** had to **overcome** the **wild beast** of **religion** in Israel's **vineyard** to win his **Gentile bride**.
- Now, here is the **main point**: *what happened **after the lion died**?*
 - "Out of the **eater** something to **eat**, Out of the **strong** something **sweet**." (Judges 14:14)
- God wants to **reveal** his **sweet kindness** to you, but it often comes from **overcoming** the **lions** that come at you.
- **God's sweet kindness is found in the fiercest of trials for those who overcome.**
- The **sacrifice** of **Christ** on the **cross** is like the **honey** that came out of the **lion**.
 - The **lion** of **death** came to **devour Jesus** (cf. Psalm 22), but **out of Christ's death** came the **sweetest honey**, sweeter than the honey Samson ate.

3) Look for sweet manna every morning to sustain you on your journey (Exo. 16:31; Exo. 3:8, 17).

- The Bible tells us the **manna** that God gave Israel in the wilderness tasted like **honey**.
- It would appear like **dew** on the ground and the people would have to go **outside** the **camp** every **morning** to find it.
- **God's word revealed** to us is like **manna**.
- The **Bible** is like the **ground** in which the **manna appears**. It is also like the **promised land**; **God's book** is a **land flowing** with **milk** and **honey**.
- This week I **wrote**: The Word of God comes like the sunrise. At first, you sit in darkness—waiting and wondering. Then the light of God's truth quietly emerges, awakening hope. Today, open his book like the curtains of a majestic window. Now, lift your eyes and watch what he speaks to you. "Listen, God! Please pay attention...I need your help. Every morning you'll hear me at it again. Every morning I lay out the pieces of my life on your altar and watch for fire to descend" (Ps 5:1-3, MSG).
 - Explain how this word came.
- Think about **Jonathan** in the **forest** (1 Sam. 14:24-31). When he **tasted** the **honey** his eyes **brightened**. In other words, he was revived.
 - The rest of the **army** didn't eat the honey and so they were absolutely **exhausted**. Once the army defeated their enemy they gorged on the flesh, eating meat without even cooking it.
 - **Jonathan** here is a picture of **Christ**. **Saul** is a picture of the **Pharisees**.
 - The **Pharisees** made the **law** so **oppressive** that the **kindness of God** could **not** be found.

- When **Jesus partook** of the **heavenly manna** and **shared** it, the **Pharisees** wanted to **kill** him, just like **Saul** wanted to **kill Jonathan** for eating the honey.
- In the end, **Jonathan's life** is **saved** (resurrected from the 'dead') because he **rescued** God's **people**.
- **Jesus' life** was also **saved** from those who crucified him because he died to save the lost.
- Let's remember **God's honey**, the **sweetness** of his **word** and his **daily kindness** to you, **brightens** the **eyes** and **revives** your **soul**.

Conclusion: Your God is overflowing with kindness toward you. Open your eyes to see his daily kindness to you and see every attack as an opportunity to experience more of the sweet kindness of God.

END NOTES

Look for the honey in the rock. Look for the honey in the lions that try to rip you apart. (Judges 14:5-9).

It's by God's kindness that we enter into his house. Remember, the unclean and Gentiles could not enter in. "But as for me, by Your abundant loving kindness I will enter Your house, At your holy temple I will bow in reverence for you" (Ps. 5:7).

Open your eyes to see the kindness of God in your life. Yes, each one of us has adversity and affliction. Each of us is struggling in some monumental way. But God's kindness revives us.

Father, give me more meaning to this story.

The Father dispenses his sweetness just enough to revive, but not to make us sick.

The land full of milk and honey (Exo. 3:8, 17)

Manna like honey (Exo. 16:31)

The spies scouting out the land (Num. 13:27ff)

Finding honey in the rock.

Learn to live day by day on God's kindness rather than worrying about the future.

The honey you receive, pass it on without boasting.

The sacrifice of Christ on the cross was the honey that came out of the lion.

If you can understand this riddle, you will be clothed everyday of the month.

The word of God is sweeter than honey (Ps 19:10; Ps 119:103; Eze 3:3)

Honey from the rock (Ps 81:16)

John the Baptist ate locust (nickname 'the sky prawn') and wild honey (Matt. 3:4; Mark 1:6).