

Lifting Up Jesus in the Gates

by Carter Conlon

The sermon emphasizes the importance of being a virtuous church that gives high preeminence to Jesus' name and glorifies God in our generation.

Duration: 47:12

Scripture: Psalm 46:10, Proverbs 31:17, Proverbs 31:30, Isaiah 6:7, Matthew 6:33, Romans 12:21, 2 Peter 1:4

Topics: "Kindness"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker focuses on the importance of lifting up Jesus in the gates. He emphasizes the need for believers to seek resources from God in order to fulfill their calling. The speaker highlights the characteristics of a virtuous woman as described in Proverbs 31, emphasizing the importance of selflessness and obedience to God's will. He also emphasizes the role of kindness in glorifying God and reaching out to others.

Transcript

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Lifting up Jesus in the gates. If you'll turn there with me please, Proverbs 31, last chapter in the book of Proverbs. Now Father, I thank you for the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Now I know Lord that I have your heart. God, you've got to come and quicken this frail vessel. You've got to give me the ability, take my mind and heart and every aspect of my being far beyond my natural limitations.

The Holy Spirit, you've got to come and take this and multiply it and convey something so deep from the heart of God to this end-time bride. Father, I thank you, Lord, for this quickening. I thank you for the ability

that you give for us to hear, the ability you give me to speak.

In all things, Lord, I ask that your name alone be lifted up and glorified. Be satisfied today, Jesus. Let the desires of your heart be satisfied.

I ask it in your precious name. Proverbs 31, beginning at verse 10. Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.

The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool and flax and worketh willingly with her hands.

She is like the merchant's ships. She bringeth her food from afar. She rises also while it is yet night and gives meat to her household and a portion to her maidens.

She considereth a field and buyeth it, and with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. She girds her loins with strength and strengthens her arms. She perceives that her merchandise is good and her candle goes not out by night.

She lays her hands to the spindle and her hands hold the distaff. She stretches out her hand to the poor. Yea, she reaches forth her hands to the needy.

She is not afraid of the snow for her household, for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry. Her clothing is silk and purple.

Her husband is known in the gates when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh fine linen and selleth it, and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honor are her clothing, and she shall rejoice in time to come.

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looks well to the ways of her household and eats not the bread of idleness. Lifting up Jesus in the gates.

Now I want to speak this morning about a virtuous woman who is in great measure responsible for her husband being known in the gates. That's what the scripture indicates. Everything in this entire passage virtually is about this woman and in some measure because of the virtuousness and all of the aspects of that virtue that's found in this woman, her husband is known, recognized in the gates.

Proverbs chapter 12 and verse 4 says a virtuous woman is a crown to her husband. In other words, there's something about a virtuous bride that gives to her husband honor. It elevates him as it is in the sight of others and makes him the one in the gates to which the inquiring stranger might be first inclined to go for advice.

Now picture yourself in an Old Testament city, if you will, coming in as a stranger, and it's in the gates that were places of government. It's where the future and financial planning went on. It's where disputes were settled.

Land was bought and sold, and in the gates the stranger or perhaps those who dwelt in the city would find direction and find advice. Now if you were approaching the and there was an assembly of men sitting there, but one of the men had a crown on his head, assuming that it's a legitimate crown, not some foolish thing, you would go to that person. You and I would be inclined.

You'd say, now there's something about this particular man that differentiates him from all the others around. Now in measure according to Proverbs chapter 31, we are reading about the behavior and manner of living of a bride, that this manner of living and behavior has contributed to the recognition and honoring of her husband at every level of society. Now I believe in Proverbs 31 we're looking at a description of the church of Jesus Christ.

It's a type, beloved. Now I know it may have had a particular application in this particular writing, but there's a type, because all of the Bible from Genesis through to Revelation is about a savior and his church. If you see it, if you read it in that context of Christ and his church, you'll see it all through the scriptures.

Everything is pointing to the Messiah and his beloved bride. And we're looking at the type of this Christ-honoring church of the New Testament. What are some of the characteristics of this bride that brings her husband into recognition in the marketplace? In other words, her husband is brought to a place where strangers will inquire of him, where he's given honor.

Would you agree with me that we're living in a generation where the name of Jesus Christ is not given high preeminence in places of finance and government? Oh, lip service to his name, but not high preeminence. People are not seeking him perhaps the way they ought to, and perhaps used to, even within the borders of this country. Now look at some of the aspects of this particular bride.

Verse 11 says, the heart of her husband does safely trust in her so that he shall have no need of spoil. Really what it means is she will not hold back anything from him, and he knows it. If he asks her to do something, she will do it.

If he says, what have you been about today? She will give him full disclosure. There's nothing hidden in her heart. There's nothing hidden in her hands, and he has no need of any mistrust in his heart because this bride is not holding anything from him.

Verse 12 says, she will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. Her motive is to do good, to gladden his heart and to honor him all the days of her life. Is that the motive of your heart this morning? Surely it has to be.

If we're going to be the bride of Christ in these last days, we've got to say, God, it's got to be in my heart at least to do good. It's got to be in my heart to bring gladness to your heart and to bring honor to your name all the days of my life. Lord, let me not live in a manner that dishonors you.

Let me not reach out in a manner that brings dishonor to your name. Let me not speak in a manner that brings dishonor to you. Verses 13 and 14 says, she seeks wool and flax and works willingly with her hands.

She's like the merchant ships. She brings her food from afar. In other words, this bride knows that she needs material to do the work of her husband.

And she goes to the throne of God to get it. She's not casual in this relationship. She says, no, I've been given something to do that brings honor to my husband.

So therefore I'm going to whatever limit I have to go to get it. And folks, there's no greater limit you can go to than the prairie closet. And she goes to the throne and says, I realized what I have been called to do,

but I don't have the resources for tomorrow.

And I can see this bride daily now coming into the throne and finding the resources that she needs to do what she's been called to do. Verse 15 says, she rises while it is yet night and gives meat to her household and a portion to her maidens. And really what it means, she's giving her energy to others.

She's not living for herself. A selfish bride brings no honor to her husband. No, this bride is giving of herself.

She's finding what she needs at the throne of God. Her motive is to gladden the heart of her husband and to do good to him all the days of her life. She won't hold back anything that he asks her to do.

Verse 16 tells us she considers a field and buys it. And with the fruit of her hand, she plants a vineyard. She considers her calling and she goes and where she is found, she plants a vineyard there.

Folks, I want to tell you something. Your calling is not somewhere other than where you are. And many people live and think that way.

I have a calling of God on my life. Forgetting the moment you receive Christ as your Savior, the moment the Holy Spirit came upon you, that calling of God came upon you. It was to live as a shining light in the darkened world in such a manner that glory would be brought to God.

The calling is where you are. The calling is in the family that God placed you. The calling is in the apartment building that you live in.

The calling is in the work environment where you are, not anywhere beyond that. The calling came the moment that Christ came into your heart. It's not a sometime, somewhere thing.

We're called every day, all day to bring glory and honor to Jesus Christ. She plants a vineyard. Folks, it's time for the church to begin to realize, I am where God wants me to be.

I am today where God has planted me. And by God's grace, I'll bring gladness to his heart. How do I bring gladness to his heart? I go to his throne and I find what I need to plant a vineyard right where I am.

That means I go throughout my day and I'm planting seeds of God and good all around me. Things that will grow in time and bring others to honor and to bring glory to that which she says I know is my husband. Verse 17 says, she girds her loins with strength and strengthens her arms.

She spends time with God and she discovers that her strength is in him. Praise be to God. Aren't you thankful that when we get saved that we're not sent out in our natural strength to accomplish the supernatural? You and I can't do it.

We don't have the power to do it. The power that we have as a church, as a bride, is when we go into the presence of God and he begins to speak into our hearts and he says, now here's what I promise you for today. We lay hold of these promises.

We take them into our hands and heart as if they are our very own and we discover that our strength is in him. Therefore, as we walk through the day we are naturally giving glory to him. We're not giving glory to ourselves.

We're not walking through this world with some kind of human ingenuity or human plan. No, we're walking through this world divinely enabled by the spirit of almighty God. We're walking through with a new mind, a new heart and a new spirit.

Things that are given to us freely of God that Christ in us may be truly glorified. Verse 18 says, she perceives that her merchandise is good and her candle does not go out by night. She looks and her husband has given her discernment.

She knows what is right. She knows what is wrong. She knows what is truth.

She knows where she's going and even though darkness may come into her life, her heart for a season, her candle doesn't go out because it's supernaturally placed within her by God himself. Folks, thanks be to God. You and I go through seasons of darkness.

You go and I go through seasons where hell is on every side and seemingly all around us, but the word of God says that what God has given us is good and the light that Christ has put within us cannot be extinguished by any amount of darkness around about us. The cry of the true bride of Christ is, oh God, the darker it gets, the more glory bring to your name, the more let your light begin to shine from within mine, oh God, and bring glory and honor to your name. Verse 19 says, she lays her hands to the spindle and her hands hold the distaff.

She stretches her hands out to the poor. Yes, she reaches forth her hands to the needy. In other words, she's right focused.

This bride is not greedy. She's not going into the marketplace seeking her own gain. She's going out and doing the work of her husband and as she goes out, she's stretching her hands out.

She's working and all of this is for those who have no one to call any helper other than God their own. Verse 21 says, she's not afraid of the snow for her household are all clothed with scarlet. In other words, she has an abiding trust in God.

She's not afraid of dark days when they come and difficult days of days of cold and days of terror. She's not afraid of these things because she has an abiding trust in her husband. Verse 22 says, she makes herself coverings of tapestry.

Her clothing is silk and purple. In other words, she sees herself as her husband sees her praise be to God. It doesn't matter how old you are, whether you have hair or no hair, how many teeth are still left in your head.

Jesus Christ looks at you and he is, he said, you've taken my heart. He said, with one of your eyes, just one glance of your eyes and you've stolen my heart. That's what he writes in the book of song of Solomon.

He looks down and he sees this virtuous bride and he says, you've stolen my heart because you are living in a manner that is true and it's right. You've wanted to honor my name and I've placed upon you a righteousness. You're aware now of this righteousness.

Nobody can call you ugly. Nobody can call you unclean anymore. You know that I have cleansed you.

You know I've given you a righteousness. You know the glory of heaven is upon you. You know that you don't need to be ashamed of anything in your past.

You know that I cover your ever present failings that are with you every day. You know that I've covered you just as when Mephibosheth, this lame boy sat at King David's table with his lameness as it is hidden under the tablecloth. I've covered your lameness and I cover the things in you that you would look at and say are not attractive.

But the Lord says, I don't see you that way. That's why in the scriptures it says in Psalms that we have the right to condemn every voice that rises against us in judgment. We have the right to condemn those voices because our righteousness is not of ourselves.

It's of the one who has betrothed us to himself for all of eternity. Hallelujah. I hope this morning you see yourself as your eternal husband Christ does.

I hope you see it. I hope you're not running around thinking and speaking of your failings every day all day. Yes we have to sometimes face some things that need to be changed in our lives but ultimately you've got to see yourself the way that Christ sees you.

Verse 26 says, she opens her mouth with wisdom and in her tongue is the law of kindness. The law of kindness is in her tongue. Folks it's one of the ways that we finally get to realize whether or not we have grown in grace.

Whether or not we are truly honoring Christ in this world. The law of kindness is written inside of our hearts. There's a law of kindness in us that begins to manifest itself on our lips.

Now this law of kindness is not necessarily the beginning of virtue but it's one of the final fruits of it. Remember Paul said in Corinthians, if I had faith that I could move mountains. If I understood mysteries.

If I could speak in the tongues of men and angels. If I could do all of these supernatural things but didn't have love. If it was not, if I was not a manifestation as it is of the heart of God.

If God's love was not coming through this vessel. If my words were not kind. If the law of kindness was not in my lips then I'm doing all of these things but ultimately I'm not honoring the one who bought me with his own blood.

The end result of this inner working of virtue is a law of kindness. That's why Jesus said when it's all over every man woman is going to be judged by every word that you have spoken. You see this law of kindness is something that you and I if Christ is in us will naturally come from us.

If it's not naturally there we will be brought under deep conviction of the Holy Spirit. Every crooked way will be made straight and every place where we have exalted our own speech above the knowledge of God will be brought down and every low place will be lifted up and Christ will be glorified through his bride. You and I have got to have within us this law of kindness.

And Peter in 2nd Peter chapter 1 in the New Testament he speaks of faith and where does faith lead to? Let me just read it to you for time's sake. Beginning in verse 2 he said grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord according as his divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of him that's called us to glory and virtue and glory and virtue means something that is of excellence it's of moral and spiritual excellence and it brings God to the reputation that his name deserves. That's what Peter is saying we are called as a body and we're called into a moral and a spiritual excellence through which the name of God the name of Christ

will be glorified among men.

Then Peter goes on he says now whereby are given to us exceeding great and precious promises that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature having escaped the corruption that's in the world through lust and the word lust means impulses that come from the diseased condition of the human soul.

Peter says you can escape you and I can escape these diseased impulses this diseased speech diseased thinking things that came because of the the fall in the garden of Eden where the law of kindness was turned into the law of evil speech as it is that's why Paul says I see within me a law at work there's a law of sin and death at work in me I know how to I know what to do but I don't know where to find the resource to do what I know I ought to do and to be what I know I ought to be and Peter answers Paul's dilemma as Paul also does but he says whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature remember the virtuous woman comes to the throne to get what she needs and at the throne her husband begins to speak into her

heart and says no I will change you from image to image and glory to glory where there used to be bitter water there now will be sweet where you used to walk in unbelief you'll become a person of faith where you used to be selfish there will be a kindness that can only come from God begin to come from the inward parts of what I'm going to do within you these promises make us partakers of the divine nature that's why beloved we've got to know this book now if ever there was a church age that should know this book it's ours now we're living in the last days folks we've got to bring as it is or lift up Jesus in the gates of the city one more time he goes on and he says add to your faith virtue remember we're talking about a virtuous woman and to virtue knowledge and to knowledge temperance

that's the ability to control oneself and to temperance patience and to patience godliness and to godliness brotherly kindness and a brotherly kindness charity remember I said the kindness is not the beginning it's the end of this deep work of God and it's truly how you and I can learn to glorify God in our generation think with me for a moment in Genesis we see the law of kindness in the in the mouth of God when he spoke his words not only created but he gave boundaries brought divine order and gave purpose after Adam and Eve sinned we still see even after they sin we still see this law of kindness in the mouth of God remember God turned to the serpent to Satan himself and said I'm going to put enmity between you that's you see how Satan caused the fall of man through corrupted speech

and that's how his kingdom advances that's how he fights against the testimony of Christ through corrupted reasoning and corrupted speech that's why the scriptures say that we have been given authority to cast down these these high sounding arguments that exalt themselves against the truth of God and he says I'm going to put enmity between your distance between you which is the law of corrupt speech and the woman and between your seed and her seed and it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel in other words she will triumph through Christ over your corrupt speaking Satan I have a bride and it was it was a gauntlet as it is was thrown down in the garden of Eden and God Almighty said I will have a bride for my son and my bride is going to overthrow your corrupted reasoning

she's going to overthrow your corrupted speech she's going to be brought back in Christ to the image of the God who created her and out of her mouth is going to come the law of kindness the law of God's kindness the law that when it when God speaks he creates gives order boundaries correction instruction and righteousness help and hope to those that are weary and have no helper knows she is going to stand and she's going to bring honor to her husband again she's going to have in her mouth this law of kindness

think about Calvary for a moment when unkindness is being manifested on every side the religious of that day are wagging their heads and saying he saved others he cannot save himself come down from the cross now if you be the son of God even the thieves on either side are casting

insults at him he's surrounded as it is by this law of unkindness manifesting right from the heart of the devil himself and every thing of human creation that he has access to this law of kindness conformed the lips of Jesus to the heart of God his father in him was the law of kindness and when all this unkindness is going on you remember the scripture says even though being reviled he reviled not he did not respond in like kind his heart was gripped by the heart of his father his lips were touched as Isaiah's were by the call from the altar of God and this work of God was being manifested in his life and as people stood and waiting perhaps for what was going to come is he going to curse is he going to call fire is he going to revile out of his lips comes father forgive them for they

don't know what they do those who are standing hardened perhaps to human suffering hardened to goodness heard him say to a thief beside him this day thou shalt be with me in paradise he saw him speak to John and said John behold your mother and to his mother behold your son the law of kindness is radiating from the lips of Jesus because the heart of God is his heart and mark 15 39 says and when the centurion which stood over against him saw that he so cried out and gave up the ghost he said truly this man was the son of God the centurion moved by the kindness and by the manner in which he spoke and the centurion said the depth of the cry i've heard from this man can only be born of God every time he pushes himself up in suffering because that's the only way he could breathe when you're on

the cross you've got to push yourself up and that nail through his feet would send excruciating pain pain through his entire body but every time he pushed himself up and was able to draw a breath out of his mouth would come kindness no malice no ill will no responding insult to insult and the centurion who's standing there he's very familiar with death he's heard so many cursed God he's heard so many beg for mercy he's heard so many slander and all of a sudden he sees the depth of a cry coming from a man and in his heart and condition he says truly this man was the son of God only God could do this only God could give a man this kind of a compassion only God could cause a condemned man to speak with such incredible kindness now folks kindness does not mean the absence of anguish or the

absence of pain or the absence of suffering or the absence of suffering wrong at the hands of others many of you now in the marketplace are beginning to experience the difficulty of a generation that is trying to push Christ out of its collective consciousness and if Christ is in you they're going to try to push you out too as well and you're experiencing this very thing that Christ had experienced at the hands of unregenerate men and women but it does mean that within us we are motivated by the desire to see the heart of God satisfied and folks that's the evidence that Christ is truly in us that we're truly living in a manner that brings him to honor one more time in our generation that when we are reviled when we are spoken against when we are suffering sorrow and anguish when voices

are risen against us when difficulty is all around us proverbs 31 12 says she will do him good and not evil all the days of her life she chooses to live in a manner that conforms to the cross Jesus this is your heart and if your life is within me God almighty let my lips speak for you and let them speak for you in such a manner that honor will be brought again to your name she lives to see the will of God accomplished proverbs 31 16 says she considers a field and that's even a field with all of its sorrows and all of its difficulties and she buys it and begins to plant there she considers a field not not living to get out but truly living to honor Christ within and I know that some of you live in places I spoke with a professional person

just recently who has been brought into the office

of a psychiatrist in their particular firm because this person speaks to people about Jesus Christ and the whole of the that particular firm is treating her as if she's insane because she is speaking the name of Christ trying to intimidate her asking her if she's afraid and all of these kinds of questions no she considers a field with all of its sorrows and buys it considers the calling of God considers the place where the Lord has planted her and says no that's my field that's where my husband has sent me and by the grace of God I shall bring honor to the name of my Christ in that place I'll not look to escape God will my husband will give me wisdom I'll know when to speak and when not to speak I'll know how to plant but I'm going to live in a manner that his name is brought to honor

hallelujah I'm going to live in a manner that others around me even seeing the way I'm persecuted but yet still speaking the law of kindness they will see it they will they will see this new song that God's planted within my heart and they will go to the gates and they'll begin to ask my husband Christ they will begin to ask him for a reason for the hope that he has planted within my heart she's motivated by the desire to see the good things which God has spoken towards man done proverbs 31 20 says she stretches out her hands to the poor she reaches out her hands to the needy as Christ stretched out his hands on calvary to you and I when we were in our sin and in our need she stretches out her hands to the poor and does not draw her hand back from the place where God has planted her she

lives to see the name of Christ glorified proverbs 31 verse 23 it says her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land but folks none of this can happen if the law of kindness is not in her heart or on her lips I want to suggest to you that the law of kindness can bring Christ again into a place of honor in your situation I want to suggest to you that it's time for the church of Jesus Christ to truly bring honor to her lord by allowing this virtue that can only come from the promises of God and the power of the Holy Spirit to reign within her heart one more time I want to suggest that you and I need to have the grace to ask Christ for the strength to honor the one who went to a cross who did not revile those that were reviling him but spoke with the law of

kindness and folks I want to tell you something when you speak with the law of kindness to those who are unkind to you you will take your savior and you will put him in the gates in a position of honor people will notice the strength that you have they will see this law of kindness at work within your heart and men and women who are reasonable will realize that they don't have this strength oh they may not say it to you in the work environment or wherever you live but in their quiet moments they will go to the gate and they'll not be looking for a radio talk show host to find their help or doctor so and so or anybody else but they will look to the one who wears the crown because and he wears the crown because you have put it on his head a virtuous woman is a crown to her husband you will

have placed a crown upon the head of Christ in the eyes of those who don't know him and it will cause them to begin to go to him and say would you tell me where strength can be found would you tell me where this bride of yours finds her provision would you tell me how my life can be like hers is would you tell me sir you seem to have given so much to this bride and I seem to have so little would you open to me the treasure of your resources will you help me to understand how I might stand in the midst of all the perversity that's all around me you see this virtuous woman will cause a society to go and inquire of Christ one more time I see a day coming of such calamity where people will need advice they'll want help with their planning their settling of disputes and directions for their

lives and the simple cry I believe from the heart of God for this morning is that you and I must call out to Jesus and bring honor to his name one more time now we don't have the power to do this within ourselves you can't do it and I can't do it but in the power of the Holy Spirit we can if we will go to the throne and say Lord I'm not looking to get out anymore I'm going to plant a vineyard I'm going to plant I'm not a seed a vineyard I'm going to plant a vineyard I'm going to walk in that place and I'm going to be kind to people and in my mouth will be the law of kindness I will not gossip I will not slander I will not I will not give back insult for insult I will not defend myself when I'm unjustly yes I'll speak but not to the point of becoming contentious I will be known as a person

of tempered speech and truly through this Jesus Christ I ask that you be honored may I be known as a virtuous bride that truly brings honor to her husband oh folks I've been through some of this we all have to be taken to deeper depths of this dependence on God but I've been through some of this I have been in work environments before being in ministry more I've known this I've known the slanders I've known the threats and I didn't understand the depths of what I know today but I do know that I love God with all my heart I went to him every day I found the promises in his word and I just went from place to place and by God's grace planted seed when I was threatened that if you speak the name of Jesus you're going to be in big trouble we'll get you however we have to get you well so I just

went back to the throne again and I prayed and the Lord did something marvelous I didn't have to speak anymore people started asking me all kinds of questions I was allowed to respond I was not allowed to be the initiator of the conversation if there was a contention over it I'd say well they asked me and so I told them and there was no law against that and God will do he will he will move upon people's hearts if you and I choose to honor him if we keep this law of kindness in our lips if we don't let the enemy take away our song if we don't get so engrossed and embroiled in the circumstance that out of this fountain starts coming forth bitter water the only bible and you've heard him many times said from this pulpit that this generation is most likely going to read now is you it's the

law of God written in you it's the law of his love and his redemption written within your heart they're not going to pick up a Gideon's Bible very very few will people are absolutely turned off from Christian radio and television it's a mockery now among men the only bible they'll read is you the only the only real Christ they'll see is the Christ that you allow to live within your heart and I do believe with all my heart I say God help us now in New York City as your bride to bring honor to your name again help us Lord to live for you in such a manner that you are seated with a crown in the gates of the city I believe with 8,000 people that attend this church and so many that listen on the internet that there is there is sufficient witness here to make a significant difference in our

generation there are people in every walk of life that attend this church you work everywhere throughout the city and if you and I could walk in a manner that we allow this law of kindness we allow we're not speaking as the people speak and this is what the Holy Spirit's been telling me there's so little difference in the marketplace quite often between those who don't know God and those who do the one thing that will it doesn't matter that you go to church people couldn't care less about that everybody goes somewhere what does make a difference is when you and I have a law of kindness written within us this fruit of virtue unsaved religious people cannot be kind no matter how hard they try bitter water will come out of the fountain but if Christ is truly within us we can bring him to

honor by saying God thank you for placing me in a place where I get to experience the cross you told me to take up my cross but I've never fully understood what it means but now I'm starting to understand when

I have to endure the ridicule of men when I have to forgo some promotion when I when I have to be put in a place of being falsely accused Lord I'm exactly where you were on Calvary so now the strength that you had by the Spirit you've got to give it to me now God you've got to allow this law of kindness to come through my mouth and if I do cry out it's got to be a righteous cry that comes from within and even a hardened centurion a hardened Roman guard in that place said truly this was the son of God because of the things that he heard we're living at a time now beloved when your

co-workers the only evidence they will have that what you and I have is different from the rest of the world is there's something that comes from within us there's a cry and the cry is ultimately for their souls it's that they be found in Christ and not lost in hell for all of eternity there's got to be something beyond ourselves that causes us to say Lord I will do good to you all the days of my life I will not withhold the things that you ask from my hand Lord you'll have no need to spoil through me as part of your bride I'll come to the throne and find the things that I need every day and as you speak to my heart and give me your promises I will go out I will be encouraged and I will let this law of kindness be formed within my heart and ultimately through my lips you will be brought

to honor in my workplace you will Jesus through me be brought to honor in my apartment building you will be brought to honor in my home where I have to go home and I'm slandered every day by an unbelieving husband or unbelieving wife or sneering and mocking children but I will not speak in like kind back and you will be brought to honor blessed be God what I'm speaking about this morning is a word so deep that only the Holy Spirit can do it you and I have to have the heart of God we have to have the heart of God within us it if Christ was left only in his humanity if he hadn't had the power of the Holy Ghost and this trust in his father he would have been unable as it is on the cross to utter those words and in so much that he would have been unable we are unable we need the anointing of

the Holy Spirit we need the strength of God in this generation folks you and I have to be motivated by a compassion for lost humanity one day we'll be in heaven and they will be in hell unless they see Christ through us and that day is coming soon folks it's not far down the road even if Christ tarries we're not going to live forever one day it'll be over for us isn't it worth it to endure for a season some of the scorn of Christ that others around us may come to know him as Lord and Savior when when I was led to the Lord I police officer came to my house and for a series of weeks was talking to me about these things about salvation I didn't know if I could trust it I wasn't really much for religion I was so turned off religion when I was young and I have to honestly say that some of my

speech towards him was rather unkind but I was trying to provoke him see what was really in him and out of his mouth just kept coming the law of kindness no matter what I said he responded with kindness it wasn't a program for this man he loved my soul he loved it enough to endure my ridicule and questions and scorns and just kept coming back and the law of kindness caused me to go to the king praise God when I give an altar call this morning for especially people in home situations where you need what you've heard this morning for people in work environment that you're walking through now this incredible evil on every side but it's no worse than what Christ endured on Calvary you need the strength of God and others are just you've played such a mixed game for so long and singing the

praises of God here in the sanctuary but you are involved in gossip you are involved in anger and ungodly conversations especially in the workplace tearing down the supervisors even just casual discussion about the elections you are having things to say about leaders that the Bible says you shouldn't say our speech should always be tempered should be seasoned with salt should always bring healing it should always

have something in it of the representation of the heart of God we speak too much we speak too easily we speak too frequently we speak too lightly and because of it our husband Christ is not honored in many places in the city this is so serious it doesn't matter if you have faith to move mountains it doesn't matter if you understand mysteries if you don't have this law of kindness

everything else is brought to nothing people can wash it away and say well everyone else has a theory and they all claim to know mysteries but I don't see anything in you that makes you different than me I don't hear anything different let's take seriously what the Holy Spirit is calling us to this morning it will make a huge difference every place that you are let's stand together and if the Holy Spirit is drawing you in the balcony you can go to either exit than the annex please if you just step between the screens step out and just join these that are coming and just say I want to be a virtuous bride I want to be part of that virtuous bride as in the days of Isaiah you say God you've got to touch my lips you've got to do a deeper work in me than I have allowed you to do and I'm coming

to you for the strength that I need thank you Jesus let's take a moment to worship as these are coming this word today has come out of my own journey I don't know when I started praying it but at some point a few months ago I began to pray certain prayers and Lord I want to be kind and to be kind you and I have to learn it's it's not always you don't have to be right just kind and it's a supernatural work that can take us there and it really is a joining to the very heart of Christ on Calvary hard to be kind when you're if you're right in a certain situation if you've been wronged or spoken against very hard to be kind but I think I'd rather be kind than right now but only God can do this it can't come we don't have the resources that's why we've got to go to the throne and get it now we

don't have the strength to do it I don't have it and you don't have it none of us do but I'd like to be kind from the rest of my days and it's not just giving things to people it's the whole demeanor remember before Isaiah could be used in Isaiah chapter 6 the Lord had to touch his lips and it's interesting because when we see it in that context it's it doesn't matter how much we know until it affects our speech in everyday interaction we've not really appropriated the power of God and we are in no position to bring Christ to honor I want Jesus Christ to be honored and I know that you do as well now consider the vineyard where God has to consider the field he's given you make a decision today to go to the throne and get the strength you need to plant to plant a vineyard in that field that

he's given you gave you that home gave you that job gave you that circumstance you don't need to run from it but let the kindness of the Lord triumph over it hallelujah father we've heard your word today and God we've responded in our hearts there's nothing more needs to be said Lord you're going to have to take us as a body to this place where we don't speak evil but from the resource of your life within us we speak as you do Lord this is something sovereign it's something that you have to do but we're asking that in this generation as a church body that we may bring you Jesus Christ to honor again in the gates where people are asking questions and plans are being made that you might be one who they desire to consult because they have seen you in your bride and heard you in our mouths

give us the strength and the grace to do this Lord it can't come from any amount of our effort it has to be a supernatural work we acknowledge that but we open our hearts to it we thank you Lord that you love us and that you're more than willing to do this in us Oh Jesus Son of God be brought to honor in New York City in our homes our work environments be brought to honor be brought to honor let our husband be known in the gates we thank you for it God with everything in us in Jesus mighty name amen and amen God bless you this is the conclusion of the message

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