

Today's Theme

“Graciousness”

Series Title

Gifts To Jesus & Others PT 3

12/20/20

What Being Gracious Means?

1. Graciousness *starts* with God.

Psalms 116:5 The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

Psalms 145:8 The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

2. Why is being gracious *important*?

Luke 4:22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn't this Joseph's son?” they asked.

- (1) GPs choose kindness & courtesy over harshness.
- (2) GPs tend to be *tactful, delicate & generous*.
- (3) GPs make the world *kinder & gentler*.

3. *Characteristics* of gracious people.

- (1) A GP is slow to take *credit*.
- (2) A GP is quick to give *value* to others.
- (3) A GP never seeks to *embarrass* others.
- (4) A GP is regularly *thanking* others.
- (5) A GP doesn't *monopolize* conversations.
- (6) A GP doesn't try to play *one-up-manship*.
- (7) A GP pays *attention* to others.
- (8) A GP desires to say what's *appropriate*.
- (9) A GP looks out for the *comfort* of others.
- (10) A GP understands they are not *indispensable*.
- (11) A GP constantly points out the *good* they see.
- (12) A GP is a *wonderful* person to be around.

The Story Of The Unwise Servant

1. *Gracious* then *something else*.

Matt 18:23 “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. 26 “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ 27 The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. 28 “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. 29 “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ 30 “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. 32 “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. 35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

2. *We choose* our *graciousness level* (T&M).

Philippians 4:5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

3. *Who do you want to be?*