

A LIFE WELL LIVED: DISCOVER THE REWARDS OF AN OBEDIENT HEART

LOVING WHAT'S KIND
MICAH 6:8; GENESIS 50:1-21



The Heart of the Matter

Micah 6:8 reveals the second character quality of a life well lived: kindness—a quality often expressed in mercy or forgiveness. Few things catch the attention or remain in the memory more than such acts of unmerited kindness, but it sometimes seems that everything around us works to block those acts. Of all the biblical examples of amazing acts of kindness, Joseph's treatment of his brothers may shine the brightest.



Discovering the Way

1. God Expects Us to Love Kindness (Micah 6:8; Ephesians 4:32)

The Bible is filled with random acts of kindness by God's people. At the end of Paul's list of things that mark a Christian's life, he wrote, "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32).

2. Joseph's Example of Kindness (Genesis 50:1-21)

The story of Joseph's kindness toward his brothers when he had every reason for bitterness raises the bar for the way we think about and treat even those who mistreat us. Instead of revenge and retaliation, Joseph showed kindness and forgiveness.

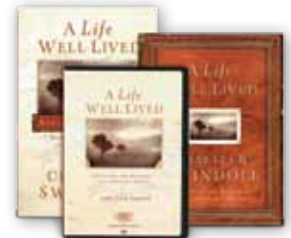


Starting Your Journey

We can all learn much from Joseph with regard to demonstrating kindness. At least three practical lessons live on. First, when we realize we're not "in God's place," the desire for revenge fades away. Second, when we acknowledge God's sovereign hand in all that happens, the grip of bitterness is loosened. Third, when we are truly free of revenge and bitterness, there is plenty of room in our hearts for kindness.



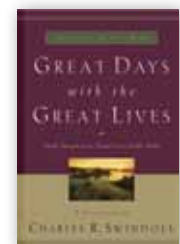
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