

Cheer Them With Kindness

Sermon Title: **Cheer Them With Kindness**

Sermon Number: **7609**

Speaker: **C. Elijah Bronner**

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C. Elijah Bronner: If you're dealing with somebody evil and unthankful, use kindness.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com, this is the message titled, "Cheer Them With Kindness" by C. Elijah Bronner. This message is number 7609. That's 7609. Listen to over a thousand free messages on brothersoftheword.com.

(Music Playing 00:00:19 - 00:00:47)

Female: And now for 7609, "Cheer Them With Kindness."

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word, because brother you need the word.

We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us at brothersoftheword.com, certainly delighted to have you tuned in with us today. I would like to read just a little humor. I shared this about a week ago on Thursdays, we have such a fun time with that (00:01:16) share it again. But this is a kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing and she would occasionally walk around to see each child's work and she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The little girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like?" Without missing a beat or looking up from her drawing, the little girl replied "They will on a minute."

Open your Bible if you will to Ephesians 4. Ephesians 4, just a couple of verses there. Ephesians 4, we're look at verse 31 and 32. Ephesians 4:31-32. When you get there, say, "Amen." Ephesians 4:31-32. Let's read together there in unison. "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." And I just want to focus on the first part of verse 32 there and "And be ye kind one to another."

Colossians 3:2; you don't have to turn there but it talks about putting on kindness, putting on kindness; and also, Galatians 5:22-23 where list the fruit of the spirit, it list the fruit of gentleness which is translated as kindness. And I

thought about the word slogan for kindness and the word says, “Kill them with kindness” and I didn’t want to use that as a subject, so I want to say, “Cheer them with kindness.” Cheer them with kindness. We don’t want to kill anybody but we want to cheer them. Turn to your neighbor and said, “Cheer them with kindness.” Cheer them with kindness. Cheer them with kindness.

Kindness actually involves finding ways to brighten and cheer the lives of others. It involves finding ways to brighten and to cheer the lives of others. No wonder Jesus said, “You are the light of the world” and as a light, you brighten the lives of others; you cheer the lives of others. And so, kindness says, that I want you to be happy; and that’s what kindness says, I want you to be happy. Turn to your neighbor and say “I want you to be happy.” And so, we cheer them with kindness. You know, in this part of the year, this favorite time of the year that we’re celebrating, it seems like everybody’s normally a little extra kind. You know, during this time of the year and that’s because we are reminded of the kindness that God has shown us. We are reminded of the fact that God sent his son, a kind act. He sent his only begotten son for us, to save us. And so, we remember the kindness that was given to us by God, and as a result, we are a little kinder doing this time of the year. But I want you to know that kindness is not intended to merely be a seasonal thing but we are to be kind all the time.

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Kindness is part of the nature of God; as I said it’s one of the fruits of the spirit; so, kindness is something that’s resident in us as a part of God’s life all the time. And so, we are to be kind all the time. I want each of you to strive to be just a little kinder than usual. I want you to be just a little kinder than usual.

Flip over to Isaiah, let me show you this scripture. See, God is so merciful and kind toward us and he expects us to give others what we have received from him. Flip over to Isaiah 54, let me just show you these two verses. I just want to show you how much kindness is on the mind of God. I want you to see how kind God is to us; God is very kind to us and I want you to see the Isaiah 54:8-10, notice what it says; Isaiah 54:8, “In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment.” I hid my face from thee for a moment in a little wrath. God says, “I got angry but it

was hard for me to stay away from you because I love you so much.” He says, “I hid myself for just a moment but I want you to see this --” look at verse 8 it says “but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on you, saith the Lord thy Redeemer.”

Men, everlasting kindness; everlasting kindness and look at verse 10 “For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee.” Praise God, aren’t you glad God’s kindness won’t leave us? God is kind to us; he is kind to us. He is so kind. The Lord is gracious and the Lord is kind. You know, the Bible says in the Book of Luke said, “God is kind to the evil and the unthankful.” Isn’t that something? God is kind to the evil and the unthankful; he can’t help himself, that’s who he is. So, he doesn’t change who he is just because you’re acting a fool; I said, God is kind to the evil and the unthankful.

I thought about that and I begin to understand why because it really baffled my mind. I said, “Lord, why would you be kind to somebody who is evil? Why would you be kind to somebody who’s unthankful?” And I found the answer. Turn to your neighbor and say, “He found the answer.” And I’m going to share it with you. I found out why God is kind to the evil and the unthankful, here’s the answer, Amelia Earhart she said this; she says, “The greatest work that kindness does to others is that it makes them kind themselves. A lot of people are not kind because they’ve never known kindness.” And so, the reason God is kind to the evil and the unthankful, he wants to show them a more excellent way. He wants them to experience kindness so they will know what kindness is; and as a result of them receiving his kindness is with the hope and the expectation that they themselves will become more kind.

And also, here’s something that William Barclay said; he says, “More people have been brought into the church by the kindness of real Christian love than by all the theological arguments in the world.” More people have been brought into the church by kindness than by all the theological arguments in the world.

And so, that’s why God is kind, he is kind to the evil and the unthankful because kindness can touch a heart. Kindness can touch a heart. Turn to your neighbor and say, “Kindness can touch a heart.” Kindness can touch a heart. And see, God is

always after heart, and so, that's why if there's an evil person and with a hard heartedness, then God use his kindness because he wants to touch the person's heart. And I will let you know, if you're dealing with somebody evil, if you're dealing with somebody evil and unthankful, use kindness; that's what God uses. Use kindness because it touches a person's heart. It touches a person's heart. So, that's the way God operates them, that's the way he wants us to operate in life. Turn to your neighbor and say, "Cheer them with kindness." Cheer them with kindness. Cheer them with kindness.

Now, let me give you a definition of kindness. Kindness is being pleasant, being gracious, being considerate, thoughtful, useful, generous, benevolent; includes benevolent actions. It's a favorable disposition or sweetness of disposition. It's goodness in action; goodness in action. It's gentleness in dealing with others, it's hospitality, it's the readiness to help.

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It's taking thought of others. It describes the ability to act for the welfare of others even if they're taxing your patience. Kindness is caring enough about others that we treat them with gentleness, graciousness and generosity. It's a favorable disposition which manifest itself in benevolent action. So, it's an attitude but it's also love in actions. So, it's an attitude, it's a demeanor but it's also love in action. So, kindness is not merely you're being sweet, but it also produces love and action, causes you to do something that's kind. And you know, the world can be so critical, so cold, so cruel, so mean and so angry. Life can be so hard and so harsh and that's why God wants his kindness to flow through us to counter the unkindness of the world. God has a counter for the unkindness of the world to remove some of the abrasive qualities of life, God uses kindness, and he wants his kindness to flow through us to the world. Now, sometimes not only is the world cold and hard but sometimes the church is cold and hard.

Let me read this to you. This is an interesting little experiment that a pastor did. Pastor Jeremiah Steepok, he transformed himself into a homeless person and went to the 10,000 members church that he was to be introduced as the head pastor that morning. He walked around his soon to be church for 30 minutes while it was filling with people for service. Only three

people out of the seven to 10,000 people said, “hello” to him. He asked people for change to buy food, no one in the church gave him change. He went in to the sanctuary to sit down in the front of the church and was asked by the ushers if he would please seat in the back. He greeted people to be greeted back with stares and dirty looks, with people looking down on him and judging him.

As he sat in the back of the church, he listens to the church announcement and such. When all that was done, the elders went up and were excited to introduce the new pastor of the church to the congregation. We would like to introduce to you Pastor Jeremiah Stepek. And the congregation look around clapping with joy and anticipation. The homeless man sitting in the back stood up and started walking down the aisle. The clapping stopped with all eyes on him. He walked up to the altar and took the microphone from the elders who were in on this little experiment. And he pauses for a moment and he begin to recite, “I was hungry and you didn’t feed me. I was naked and you didn’t cloth me. I was sick and you didn’t visit me. I was in prison and you didn’t come to see about it.” And all the heads dropped in shame, people begin shedding tears and he charged the congregation that we would not be simply a gathering of people but we would be followers of Christ. We will be followers of Christ.

And so, we have to learn to cheer people with kindness; cheer people with kindness. Never underestimate the power of your actions; never underestimate the power of your actions because with one small gesture, you can change a person’s life. I heard the testimony of a young man, he was valedictorian and he was giving his high school valedictorian speech, and he said nobody knows this, but he said, “when I was a freshman” he said, “I was considered a geek and I was ostracized and ridiculed and bullied.” And he said, “one day, I was walking down the hall and I had arm full of books and these bullies knock the books out of my hand, made fun of me, kick me” and he said, “there was one young man that came to me and help me pick up all my books. This young man befriended me and became my friend.” And he said, “I want to let that young man today because he didn’t know this, but the reason I was carrying all of those books is because I had cleaned out my locker and I was going home to commit suicide because everyone was so mean; but his small act of kindness, because he befriended me, I did not take my life and

I'm valedictorian today because somebody was kind; somebody was kind; somebody was kind. Never underestimate; never underestimate one small act of kindness. One gesture of kindness, it can change a person's life, it can touch a person's heart."

00:15:07

The Bible says in Philippians 4:5, it says "Let your moderation be known unto all men." The word "moderation" is translated as "gentleness or kindness." God says, "Let your kindness be known to all men" because he realizes, you never know when you're touching a life or changing a heart.

I want to read something else -- this story right here really got to me but this is a true story, real life story but it says, "20 years ago, I drove a cab for a living and I encountered people whose lives amaze me, ennobled me and make me laugh in weak but none touch me more than a woman. I picked up late 1 August night. I was responding to a call from a small brick fourplex in a quiet part of town. I assumed I was being sent to pick up some partiers or someone who just had a fight with the lover or a worker heading to an early shift at some factory in the industrial part of town. When I arrived at 2:30 a.m. the building was dark except for a single light in the ground floor window. Under the circumstances, many drivers would just honk the horn once or twice, wait a minute and then drive away. But I have seen too many impoverished people who depended on taxes as their only means of transportation, unless a situation smelled of danger, I always went to the door. This passenger might be someone who needs my assistance; I reason to myself.

So, I walked to the door and knock; just a minute answered a frail elderly voice. I can hear something being dragged across the floor. After a long pause, the door open. A small woman in her 80s stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pin on it like somebody out of a 1940s movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase, the apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years, all the furniture was covered with sheets, there were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box field with photos and glassware. "Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she said. I took the suitcase to the car then return to assist the woman. She took my arm and we

walked slowly toward the cab. She kept thanking me for my kindness. "It's nothing" I told her. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I will want my mother treated." Oh, you're such a good boy" she said.

When we got in the cab, she gave me an address then asked "Could you drive through downtown?" "It's not the shortest way" I answered quickly. "Oh, I don't mind" she said, "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice." I looked in the rearview mirror her eyes were glistening, "I don't have any family left" she continued. "The doctor say I don't have very long." I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. "What route would you like me to take?" I asked. For the next two hours we drove through the city she showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator, we drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she asked me to slow down in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness saying nothing. As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon she suddenly said, "I'm tired, let's go now."

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building like a small convalescent home with a driveway that pass under a portico. Two elderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled out, they were intent and solicitous watching her every move; they must have been expecting her. I opened the trunk and took a small suitcase to the door; the woman was already seated in a wheelchair. "How much do I owe you?" she asked reaching into her purse "Nothing" I said. "You have to make a living" she answered. "There are other passengers I can make a living from" he replied almost without thinking a bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly, "You gave an old woman a little moment of joy" she said, "Thank you."

00:20:06

I squeezed her hand then walked in to the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life. I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly, lost in thought for the rest of that day I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gone an angry driver or one who

was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run or had honk once then driven away.

On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life. We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments but great moments often catch us unaware. Beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one. Cheer them with kindness. Cheer them with kindness. Don't miss the opportunity to touch people with God's kindness through a word or a small gesture or a deed because you never know when you're touching a heart or changing a life through the kindness that God wants to bring through your life.

Let me read something that William Penn said. He said, "I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again." Folks, we get one change through life and when this life comes to an end, the only thing that matter is how did you treat other people. That's the only thing that has eternal value. We chase so much in this life that is so meaningless but the only thing that has eternal value and worth is how you treated other people. Don't waste today, don't waste tomorrow, every day, God blesses you with another opportunity to be kind. Don't waste a single day.

I thought about this when I heard about Ivan's sister going home to be with the Lord. A beautiful young lady who we all love, gracious and pleasant. And I thought about her life coming to an end at the age 55 and I said, "My God life is so short." Life is so short and we waste our lives in this rat race. Chase some things that don't matter. The only thing that matter when she stepped in to eternity was how she treated other people. That's the only thing that has eternal weight and eternal value. It's what you did for somebody else. Folks, every day, every day is an opportunity that God gives us.

I walk up yesterday morning and I said, "Father, thank you that you didn't take me in my sleep last night and you gave me other day. I got the day to be kind to somebody. I have a day to show love to somebody, Lord God. I have a day to make a difference in somebody's life." And I said, "I'm going to start at home." I told my wife how much I loved her. I told her how much she meant to me. I told each of my children that I love them and I

show them kindness. Kindness starts at home. Kindness starts at home. Kindness starts at home. Kindness starts at home. Kindness started at home. It starts at home.

I thank God. I said, "God, you've given me another day." Every morning God graces you to wake up. It's another day. God didn't take your life yet and so, he has left you here on earth giving you another opportunity to have some eternal value, to have some eternal value. Folks, that's all you can take out of this life to the next life. It's what you did for other people. And God gives you another day. God gives you another day every morning now and look at every day differently. I said, "God, you left me alive." You left me alive so that means I can make a difference somewhere. You left me alive so that means I can touch somebody's life. You left me alive God so I share your love with somebody. I can be an instrument. I can be a vessel. I can be a conduit of your blessing to somebody else -- to somebody else's life.

00:25:00

Folks, I begin to realize that's what's really important in life. That's what's really important in life. Cheer them with kindness. Cheer them with kindness. Cheer them with kindness. Amen. Amen. I have preached myself happy. Praise God, Praise God. Be careful when you're entertaining strangers because you'll never know you're entertaining an angel. Be careful how you treat people as you never know your entertaining an angel. Be careful how you treat people. Be careful how you treat people. Be careful how you treat people. Jesus made it very simply. He said, "Folks, all of these (00:25:46) down to loving God and loving people and I said, "That's the whole Bible. Love God and love people." Love God and love people. Praise God. Praise God.

Those of you watching by television, I'm out of time, I'd like for you to go to BrothersoftheWord.com. You can listen to this message, "Cheer Them With Kindness" in its entirety absolutely free of charge. You can also email it to a friend. Thank you so much for joining us today at Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word.

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