heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Matthew 5:46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?

Matthew 5:47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? <sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

*Titus 3:3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.* 

<sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,

<sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

<sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

<sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

*Luke 6:36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.* page 1: noun. verb.

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## Kindness is a Verb

Sowing Seeds, Growing Gardens- part 3 September 24, 2017

Care is both a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_.

Luke 10:25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>26</sup> "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

<sup>27</sup> He answered: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

<sup>28</sup> "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

<sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

<sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho,

...when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him • of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

<sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road,

■ ... and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.

<sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him,

■ ... passed by on the other side.

<sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was;

■ and when he saw him, he took pity on him. "Pity" -

"He who gives outward things gives something *external to himself*, but he who imparts compassion and tears gives him something *from his very self*" -Gregory the Great

<sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.

<sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

<sup>36</sup> "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

The Shocking Twist in the Story...

## The Kindness of God on Display

*Matthew 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'*<sup>44</sup> *But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,* 

Matthew 5:45 ... that you may be sons of your Father in