

PART 3: DoGooder

DATE: 07-17-2022

START

When Taylor Swift wrote her song “Mean”, it was in response to those that said hateful and mean things about her performances and ability. In an interview she says, constructive criticism and professional criticism is helpful, but there is no room to just be mean.

- When have you experienced constructive criticism or professional criticism that has helped you?
- How has someone veiled their meanness towards you through the label of constructive criticism?
- Have you ever hid your meanness under the guise of constructive criticism?

READ

[1 Samuel 25:32-33](#) (NIV)

“David said to Abigail, “Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands.”

THINK

Abigail ran to meet David to deescalate the situation that had arisen between Him and Nabal. While David was leveraging God to justify his actions, Abigail teaches David what God really desires for Him.

- When have you used God to justify your meanness?
- Who do you have in your life that helps deescalate your meanness?
- How can you help deescalate the meanness shown towards you?

Jesus calls us to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, to bless those who curse us, and to pray for those who mistreat us. When the world tells us to hate those who hate us, Jesus turns this narrative upside down and says to love those people.

- Who do you have a hard time showing love towards?
- How does loving our enemies, instead of hating them, allow God to shape us more into His image?
- How can you intentionally love and do good?

PRAY

“God, when I encounter my enemies and those who hate me, curse me, and mistreat me; help me to respond with love and not hate. Help me to respond the way you would respond.”

ACT

This week, determine how you can intentionally love and do good to those that are mean towards you. Respond as Jesus would respond and not react.

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