



DAY 32

Kindness

Zephaniah 3:17 For the LORD your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.

During my early years at Kent State, I made a mistake that I often reflect on with a mix of embarrassment and gratitude. It was the day of my final exam for a class I had worked diligently in all semester. I had always taken my studies seriously and was usually the first one to arrive for class, sitting right at the front. But on this day, I somehow forgot the change in schedule.

Normally, our class met later in the afternoon, but the exam was scheduled two hours earlier. As I sat at my job in the Kent State Library, I came to the realization of my horrible mistake. Panic set in as I realized I was late — very late. I raced across campus and finally reached the disturbingly sparsely filled classroom.

The instructor of the class, a graduate assistant, saw my distress and offered me a profound act of grace. She, with a kindness that felt divinely inspired, allowed me to take the exam in her office after the session had ended. I felt a sense of relief wash over me; her mercy gave me the opportunity to maintain my strong grade in the class rather than being dragged down by an automatic “F” on the final exam.

That moment became a reminder to me of God’s grace, not just in grand gestures, but in the little moments where we are offered second chances. It taught me that even in our mistakes, there is a chance for redemption, and we can find compassion when we need it most.

Loving God,

In this season of reflection, we give thanks for Your boundless grace. You offer us second chances when we falter, extending mercy even in our mistakes. May we be mindful of the opportunities to grow, learn, and show compassion to others. Help us to remember that Your love always brings us back, no matter where we’ve been. Guide our hearts to live with humility, kindness, and forgiveness, that we may reflect Your grace in all we do. Amen.

– Sally Hoffman