



DOVER DAILY DEVOTIONS

On Sunday we walked through 2 Samuel 10 and saw how David's sincere kindness to Hanun was twisted by suspicion, his ambassadors were shamed, and yet David first cared for the wounded before planning any response; we then heard Joab's rally cry to be strong for God's people while trusting the Lord with the outcome, and we noted how God turned a needless escalation into a decisive victory when the king himself rose to fight. We connected this pattern to Jesus, who said His followers would be reviled for His sake, who calls us to stand in His strength and not our own, and who ultimately defends His people and judges His enemies. I reminded us that kindness may be rejected and motives may be maligned, but our King sees, restores dignity, and will make all things right. We anchored our hope in Christ's promises, and we left resolved to do our best, be faithful, entrust the results to God, and keep serving with courage.

Monday: Kindness Misunderstood

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 10:1-5

David's gesture to Hanun was sincere. He sent comforters to honor a grieving house. Yet suspicion twisted kindness into a threat, and his servants were shamed. Sometimes the hardest blow is not open hostility but having your good taken for evil. The text helps us name that sting and see that misreading motives is not discernment. It is fear in a wise disguise.

Notice David's pastoral reflex. He does not plot revenge first. He moves toward his servants. He meets them on the road, acknowledges their shame, and gives them time to heal in Jericho. This is how a good king uses power. He protects dignity, restores honor, and refuses to rush wounded people back into public view.

This is also how Jesus treats you. When kindness invites contempt, your King does not minimize the pain. He meets you, covers your shame, and tends your wounds. He restores before He deploys. Let His gentleness reset your reflexes toward those who are bruised by undeserved scorn.

Questions

1. When has your kindness been misread, and what did it tempt you to do next?
2. Who around you needs “Jericho time” and practical help to recover dignity?
3. What would it look like to imitate David’s gentle strength this week?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, kind and lowly King, when my efforts are mocked, meet me on the road. Guard me from bitterness, restore my dignity, and make me a restorer of others. Amen.

Tuesday: Blessed in the Backlash

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:11-12

Jesus prepares us for the shock of backlash. He calls us blessed when reviled for His sake, not because the pain is small, but because the reward is real. The kingdom recalibrates the scoreboard. Earth may count scorn as loss. Heaven counts it as fellowship with the prophets and interest on future joy.

This blessing reframes our motives. We do not practice kindness to secure applause, nor do we abandon it when slander sticks. Christ’s promise disarms the fear that makes us self-protective. He names the evil as evil and then lifts our eyes beyond it.

So take heart. Your Savior sees. He will not waste a single tear you shed for His name. Rejoice, not by pretending it does not hurt, but by remembering whose verdict matters most and what future He has pledged.

Questions

1. Which voices most sway your sense of worth, and how does Jesus’s blessing correct that?
2. What concrete practice helps you rejoice without denying real pain?
3. Whom can you encourage today who is facing backlash for doing right?

Prayer

Father, fix my joy in Your approval. When reviled, steady my heart and teach me to bless. Anchor me in the reward that cannot fade. Amen.

Wednesday: Courage With Open Hands

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 10:6-12

The crisis escalates. Hanun hires allies, and battle lines form. Joab's words ring like a drumbeat: be strong, show courage for God's people and God's cities, and may the Lord do what seems good to Him. Faithful courage is not chest-thumping bravado. It is holy resolve with open hands.

Joab names the who and the why before he faces the what. We fight for God's people and for the places entrusted to our care. Then we entrust the outcome to the One who writes results. This is the posture that keeps zeal from panic and planning from presumption.

Courage grows where calling and confidence in God meet. Do your best. Be faithful in your lane. Then release control. The Lord will do what seems good to Him, and that is good for you.

Questions

1. Where are you tempted to grasp outcomes rather than entrust them to God?
2. What specific "city" or stewardship has God put under your care right now?
3. How can you pair careful planning with open-handed trust this week?

Prayer

Sovereign Lord, make me brave in my calling and humble about results. Strengthen my hands to serve and my heart to trust Your wisdom. Amen.

Thursday: Strength That Is Borrowed

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 6:10-13

Paul does not say be strong in yourself. He says be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. The Christian life is not a solo climb but a life of borrowed power. We stand, we resist, we hold ground, but we do so in armor not crafted by our own skill.

This matters when opposition multiplies. Our enemy is crafty and coordinated. Noise rises, lies circulate, and our own resources feel thin. The solution is not to try harder with the same emptiness. It is to locate your life inside the sufficiency of Christ, to pray, to put on truth, righteousness, readiness, faith, salvation, and the word.

Standing is not passivity. It is active dependence. Today, receive again what Christ supplies. Then take your stand, not in swagger, but in His steady strength.

Questions

1. Which piece of God's armor do you neglect most, and what is one way to practice it today?
2. What lie are you tempted to believe about your strength or your enemy?
3. How can your community help you "stand" rather than struggle alone?

Prayer

Mighty God, clothe me in Your armor. Expose my self-reliance, replace it with Your strength, and help me stand firm in the evil day. Amen.

Friday: When the King Rises

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 10:15-19

The enemy regroups with greater numbers and fresh rage, but this time David himself leads. The king crosses the Jordan, confronts the threat, and secures decisive peace. The servants once shamed now stand beneath the victory of their king.

This turning point preaches the gospel in miniature. Our King does not remain distant. He moves toward the fight. Where His people are mocked and menaced, He rises to defend and to judge. Human coalitions crumble. The Lord's purpose stands.

Let this steady your soul. Final outcomes do not rest on our brilliance or bravado. They rest on the presence and promise of the King who acts in His time for His glory and our good.

Questions

1. Where do you need to remember that your King is not passive but present?
2. What might "crossing the Jordan" look like in your obedience right now?
3. How can you honor Christ's victory in the way you respond to those who oppose you?

Prayer

King Jesus, rise over my fears. Lead the battle that I cannot win and establish Your peace in me and through me. Amen.

Saturday: More Than Conquerors

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:35-39

Paul stacks the enemies of the soul like a wall, then tears it down with one truth. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ. Trouble, distress, persecution, shame, even death itself cannot cut the bond that Christ's blood has tied.

More than conquerors does not mean untouched. It means undefeated in and through. Our scars do not signal failure. They testify that love carried us where strength alone could not. The final word does not belong to mockers or armies. It belongs to God, who loves and keeps His people.

So do not lose heart. Your kindness may be refused, your motives questioned, your efforts belittled, but you are held. The One who began a good work will finish it. Rest in that love, then rise and serve again.

Questions

1. Which fear most persuades you that you are alone, and how does this passage answer it?
2. How have past wounds become places where Christ's love now strengthens others?
3. What step of risky kindness will you take today because you cannot be separated from His love?

Prayer

Father, secure my heart in Your unfailing love. Let nothing I face today convince me otherwise. Make me bold in kindness and steady in hope. In Christ's name, amen.