

# BE KIND

Sisters Beverly and Bea Beaver were putting the finishing touches on their costumes. “Look, Mommy! We’re almost ready for the costume ball!” said Bea, the younger of the two.

“Oh my, you both look so pretty! And your costumes are stunning!”

Bea’s dress was a peach pink with a skirt that had so many layers, it flounced outward as a princess’ dress should. Beverly’s dress was lavender purple with butterflies perching here and there all over it.

Beverly, however, was having a difficult time with the shoulder straps on her dress and she had just noticed that her skirt was not as poofy as Bea’s skirt. Beverly scowled. “You know, Bea, those ribbons on your head look funny. And your skirt looks a tad too big for you.” Secretly, Beverly was jealous.



Bea was shocked! And then dismayed. Her whiskers drooped. "D-does it look awful? Maybe I shouldn't go."

With a stern look at Beverly, Mother patted Bea's shoulder. "You look beautiful. Like a princess! It's part of that fashion to have a poofy skirt. And this is the first time you tied your ribbons all by yourself. You did a very good job!"

Bea sniffed and Mother went on. "Here, let me fix this one ribbon. ... There! You're all set. Why don't you go show Father Beaver, and we'll follow soon."

Bea skipped out of the room, her earlier worries gone.



Mother Beaver looked at Beverly, who now had her arms folded across her chest and who looked even more cross than before. "Beverly, it was unkind to tell Bea that her ribbons looked odd. You hurt her feelings by saying that."

"I-I didn't mean to make her feel bad, but it was true her ribbons weren't tied right."

"When another beaver makes the effort to look pretty, you should compliment them. And if there's something that could use a little help, offer to help fix it, but only after you've complimented them."

Beverly recalled how Mother had first complimented Bea and then helped her retie her ribbons.



Mother continued. "It's easy to say things without thinking about them first. But words are real things. They can lift someone up or knock someone down. Put yourself in Bea's place. How would you feel if a beaver said the same thing to you?"

Beverly thought about how she would feel if someone criticized the dress she had worked so hard to design. "I would feel bad," she murmured after a moment, feeling ashamed.

"I know you didn't mean to be unkind to your little sister. So in the future, just think about the Golden Rule. Do you remember it?"

"'Do to others as you would have them to do to you'?"<sup>1</sup>

"Yes, that's right!"



<sup>1</sup> Luke 6:31 NIV



“Mother,” Beverly whispered, “I think the real problem was that I was upset about my dress. I can’t get the straps on my shoulders to tie properly. It bothered me, so I took it out on Bea.”

Mother gave Beverly a warm hug. “Your dress is beautiful. I’m so impressed with how you designed it yourself. And these butterflies look so real! Let me adjust the laces.”

Mother helped Beverly with the finishing touches on her costume. Soon, Beverly was in good spirits again. Together they went downstairs to where Father and Bea were waiting.

Beverly apologized to Bea immediately. “I’m sorry for what I said earlier. I was just jealous because you looked so pretty.”



Bea was surprised. "But you look pretty, too!" They both laughed and then twirled in circles, admiring their own and each other's skirts.

At the costume ball, the girls were delighted to see that everyone in Beaver Town had come out in their finest costumes. The food stalls were filled with sweets and fresh fruits. The magic act featured a disappearing beaver who reappeared on the other side of the stage. And through it all, Beverly and Bea had more fun because they could share the enjoyment with each other.

The End



**Verse:** Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. (Philippians 4:8 NIV)