



A BETTER KING

A SERIES IN 2 SAMUEL



2 Samuel 9 – The Kindness Of The King

May 21, 2023

Background

1. Kindness Promised

And David said, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" 2 Samuel 9:1 (ESV)

"Swear to me therefore by the LORD that you will not cut off my offspring after me, and that you will not destroy my name out of my father's house."
1 Samuel 24:21 (ESV)

"...and do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever, when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth."
1 Samuel 20:15 (ESV)

...so I can show him kindness for Jonathan's sake... 2 Samuel 9:1 (ESV)

2. Kindness Initiated

Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David. And the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "I am your servant." 2 Samuel 9:2 (ESV)

And the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?" ... 2 Samuel 9:3a (ESV)

Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet."
2 Samuel 9:3b (ESV)

Jonathan, the son of Saul, had a son who was crippled in his feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, and his nurse took him up and fled, and as she fled in her haste, he fell and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth. 2 Samuel 4:4 (ESV)

The king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar." 2 Samuel 9:4 (ESV)

3. Kindness Doubted

Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar. 2 Samuel 9:5 (ESV)

And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David... 2 Samuel 9:6a (ESV)

...and fell on his face and paid homage... 2 Samuel 9:6b (ESV)

...And David said, "Mephibosheth!"... 2 Samuel 9:6c (ESV)

...And he answered, "Behold, I am your servant." 2 Samuel 9:6d (ESV)

4. Kindness Assured

And David said to him, "Do not fear... 2 Samuel 9:7a (ESV)

...for I will show you kindness... 2 Samuel 9:7b (ESV)

...for the sake of your father Jonathan, 2 Samuel 9:7c (ESV)

A. David restored all the land of Saul to Mephibosheth.

...I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father,... 2 Samuel 9:7 (ESV)

B. David gave Mephibosheth a permanent seat at his table.

"...and you shall eat at my table always." 2 Samuel 9:7 (ESV)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,
1 Peter 1:3–4 (ESV)

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
Ephesians 2:4–7 (ESV)

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, Ephesians 3:20 (ESV)

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” Revelation 21:4 (ESV)

5. Kindness Questioned

And he paid homage and said, “What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?” 2 Samuel 9:8 (ESV)

6. Kindness Given

Then the king called Ziba, Saul’s servant, and said to him, “All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master’s grandson. And you and your sons and your servants shall till the land for him and shall bring in the produce, that your master’s grandson may have bread to eat. But Mephibosheth your master’s grandson shall always eat at my table.” ... 2 Samuel 9:9–10a (ESV)

...Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. 2 Samuel 9:10b (ESV)

Then Ziba said to the king, “According to all that my lord the king commands his servant, so will your servant do.” ... 2 Samuel 9:11a (ESV)

...So Mephibosheth ate at David's table, like one of the king's sons.
2 Samuel 9:11b (ESV)

7. Kindness Experienced

And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Mica.... 2 Samuel 9:12a (ESV)

...And all who lived in Ziba's house became Mephibosheth's servants.
2 Samuel 9:12b (ESV)

So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem,... 2 Samuel 9:13a (ESV)

...for he ate always at the king's table.... 2 Samuel 9:13b (ESV)

Now he was lame in both his feet. 2 Samuel 9:13c (ESV)

Applications

1. Like David, we are to be men and women who keep our promises.
2. David's undeserved kindness to Mephibosheth is a picture of God's undeserved kindness to us.
3. As Mephibosheth was filled with humility and gratitude for David's undeserved kindness, we should be filled with humility and gratitude for God's undeserved kindness to us.

Life Group Questions

1. **Read 2 Samuel 9.** What did you learn in this chapter that you didn't know before?
2. Why did David go to such lengths to fulfill his promise to Jonathan? What does this teach about the importance of keeping our word? Do you generally keep your word? Are there promises you have forgotten to fulfill?
3. If you had been in Mephibosheth's place, what would your reaction have been when you were called to the king's court? What would you have expected? How did pagan kings treat their rivals?
4. What was the significance of David inviting Mephibosheth to sit at his table "like one of the king's sons" (2 Samuel 9:11)?
5. In what ways are we like Mephibosheth?
6. How does David's treatment of Mephibosheth demonstrate the character of God?
7. The story of David and Mephibosheth shows that a person's character is best seen in his or her relations with somebody who is weaker. How do you conduct yourself with someone who is in a weak position?