

Spc159(?) – **Carried To The Table – 2 Samuel 9:1-13**

I want to thank that great story teller Chuck Swindoll
for the concept & inspiration for this msg

In **2 Samuel Ch 9** is one of the greatest stories in the O.T.
about God's Mercy & his Grace

& **HOW** we receive it - - & what it **MEANS** when we do

My prayer for us today - is that we would see

How we **GO** - from the desolate place we **DESERVE** to be
to where God **PLACES** us – by his Grace

God's grace comes to us while we are living
in a **dry**, **barren**, and **desolate** land

God's grace finds us right there - **& then** –
from that **dry**, & **desolate** place

God **carries** us to the **Table of the Lord**

& I is **THERE** – that we can begin to live
in the constant flow, of God's **Mercy**, & His **Grace**

In our illustration today - in **2 Sam 9**

KING DAVID - is actually a picture of God, the Father.

JONATHAN - is a picture of Jesus Christ,

& YOU AND I - are graphically pictured by the Bible character that best represents us

We are pictured by **Mephibosheth** - (*fun name to say*)

The name Mephibosheth means

“to be ashamed”.

“to be put to shame” - even

“to breath out shame”

& the MEANING of the name Mephibosheth - should be our first clue as to why HE – is a picture – of US

Mephibosheth is a picture of us receiving
God's unmerited and undeserved grace . . .

that carries us – to the Table of the Lord

Let's Pray

Father, may we understand more what a dry, barren, and desolate place we are in. & how well Mephibosheth pictures us. And may we grasp your incredible mercy and grace – freely given to us - undeserved, unearned, and unrepayable. And may we understand – that your grace alone carries us to your table

2 Samuel 9 takes place at the pinnacle of King David's life

David had been crowned King over all of Israel in **Ch 5** – in Hebron

& then he immediately captured Jerusalem
& made it the Capital of Israel – (which it still is today)

& then David brought the Ark of God into Jerusalem

& in **Ch 7** – God makes an Unconditional Covenant with David –
that his Dynasty (his lineage) would rule FOREVER

Referring to the Messiah (the forever Ruler)
that would come from the lineage of David

Then in Ch 8 – David gains Victory over all his enemies

& in **Ch 9** – ALL is WELL in the City of God,
& in the Kingdom of Israel

& THAT – is where this Picture of God's incredible Grace - begins

2 Samuel 9:1 (ESV) - USING ESV TODAY

1 And David said, “Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake?”

Look 1st - at the word “KINDNESS”
it's the key to the whole story

The Hebrew word for kindness is - **HESED** (*also fun to say*)

It's translated as:

Loyal Love – Gracious Love – Kindness – or **MERCY**

But the Word means more than our Language can convey

HESED – is the Hebrew Word for God's
Unconditional, Steadfast, Faithful love

A Love that can never be **earned**,
& never be **deserved** - & never be **repaid**

It's the Word for The Love God **Pours Out**
in His **GRACE** & **MERCY** toward us

But (unfortunately) - **GRACE** & **MERCY** are words
that we hear often – *maybe TOO Often*

so often that maybe we've become a little NUMB
to the Absolute **IMMENSITY** of their Meaning

This story of Mephibosheth – is a picture of God's Indescribable
Love – shown in his **GRACE** & **MERCY** toward us

Remember – in this illustration

DAVID is a Picture of God the Father
& **JONATHON** is a picture of Jesus Christ

& **SAUL** (Israel's 1st King) is a picture of the **Kingdom of Man**
(*Saul was Man's choice, to rule Man's Kingdom*)

So - read again with me - 2 Samuel 9:1 (ESV)

1 And David said, “Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake?”

Is there anyone in the lowly, needy, miserable, kingdom of Saul that I can extend my MERCY & GRACE to?

& Notice (**Very Clearly**) at the end of Verse 1
King David says, ***“For Jonathan's sake.”***

NOT - ***“Is there anyone worthy?”***

NOT – ***“Is there anyone we should rightfully acknowledge”***

BUT - ***“Is there anyone that I can show MERCY & GRACE to - for Jonathan's sake?”***

This is a picture of God the Father saying

“Is there anyone in the lowly, miserable Kingdom of Man that I can show my MERCY & GRACE to – **For JESUS’ SAKE?**”

& - what gives this the power is - at that time, there was an ACCEPTED & EXPECTED procedure – for Every New King

The first thing a new King would do - when he came into power was to execute all of the HEIRS of the previous king

David rightly replaced the Rule of Saul - & so the Expected Judgment on the Heirs of Saul – was DEATH

It was Assumed – Expected - & Anticipated

& So - Saul had a son - named Jonathan
& Jonathan had a son - named Mephibosheth.

& when Saul and Jonathan and Saul's other two sons
were killed in battle

Everyone knew - A NEW KING would be coming

& Mephibosheth would Rightly Deserve the Judgment of the New King
Because of the "House of Man" he belonged to (meaning Saul)

That is ONE REASON – Mephibosheth is a picture of you & me

But – there is another reason

Years earlier - Mephibosheth had a nanny

& when that nanny heard the news about Saul being killed in battle
she tried to flee - with Mephibosheth

On the WALL behind me - is 2 Samuel 4:4 that describes it

2 Samuel 4:4 (ESV)

4 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.

Can you insert your name there?

The person, who was to care for him . . . fled in haste, & he fell and became lame. And his name was _____." (can we see ourselves)

Not only is **Mephibosheth** destined for judgment – Like we were -
but now he's even more like us

Because now - he's been **dropped**, he's been **crippled**, he's been **broken**
By the world he was born in to

& maybe this world **WE** were born into - this "**Kingdom of Man**"
Has somehow **broken us** – somehow **crippled us**

Maybe from **Decisions** We have made

Maybe from the Decisions of others
that have left us crippled - by no fault of our own

If that is YOU Today - GOD IS SEEKING YOU

Broken, Lam e, & Crippled - God has already prepared a way -
to Carry you to His Table

There was already a way prepared for Mephibosheth,
but Mephibosheth didn't know it

Many years before – David had made a Covenant with Jonathan

A Covenant to show his Unconditional & Steadfast Love
to ANY member – of the House of Jonathan

Just as God has made a Covenant . . . → →

Just as God has made a Covenant

to show his **Unconditional** & **Steadfast Love**
to any member – of the House of Jesus Christ

This Covenant of **MERCY** & **GRACE**
is all between God the Father, & Jesus Christ

We are only the recipients of God's **MERCY** & **GRACE**
because we belong to Jesus Christ

We are **Broken**, **Crippled**, & **Lame**
because of the kingdom of the world we live in

But God has made a covenant with Jesus Christ - **for OUR sake.**

& we will **SEE IT** – As we continue

2 Samuel 9:2-3(A) (ESV)

2 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.”

3 And the king said, “Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?” . . .

There it is – “The Kindness of God” – **HESED**
That is the Steadfast Love of God's **MERCY** & **GRACE**

& the King says – is there someone in the house of Saul
that I can show Gods **MERCY** & **GRACE** to

& Ziba is going to respond

but you can almost hear the hesitation in his voice
along with a some “Subtle” counsel

2 Samuel 9:3(B) (ESV)

3 . . . Ziba said to the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet.”

Can't you feel **FEEL Ziba** – kinda **STUMBLING** over his word
Well . . . Yeah . . . there is one guy . . .

but, you know, he's **NOT** too Kingly
I'm not to sure he would **FIT** in the Royal court

What I'm trying to say is . . . he's . . . crippled

Something has happened to him – in the world he lives in

Someone - Dropped Him - & He's - broken . . . He's kind of a **MESS**

But notice the King's response very clearly

2 Samuel 9:4(A) (ESV)

4 The king said to him, “Where is he?” . . .

King David doesn't stop for one second
doesn't hesitate one Moment

“The king said to him, 'Where is he?’”

"I didn't ask you **HOW** he was.

I didn't ask you **WHAT CONDITION** he was in.

I didn't ask you if he was **WORTHY**.

I asked you if he **EXISTS** - Because I am **SEEKING** him . . . Where is he?"

2 Samuel 9:4(B) (ESV)

4 . . . And Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar."

Mephibosheth is alone, crippled, broken
& he's living in a place called **Lo-debar**

Just the name sounds depressing – **Lo-debar**.

It **IS** depressing –

In Hebrew, the word mean "**no pasture**" – "**no life**"

It refers to - a **barren – lonely - isolated** place

& Mephibosheth is living there - broken, crippled,
& separated from everything that is good

& WE may be as well - living in that place of "**no pasture**"
Living - **Broken** & **Isolated** . . . & **Alone**.

Why is Mephibosheth there?

Maybe for the same reason we are

Though the King has Made a Way – to Carry us to his Table

Maybe WE instead – have chosen to live

lame – isolated - desolate - in a place of no pasture

Maybe because we really think

that if we were to come to the King just as we are

that we would get - just what we deserve.

So – Instead of Trusting the MERCY & GRACE of the King
we stay crippled and isolated in our desolate place

& we just learn - to COPE

We just learn - to GET BY

*"Yeah, I'm pretty **MESSED UP** - but I get by."*

But THAT is NOT good enough for King David
and it is not good enough for King JESUS

& So King David – SEEKS OUT Mephibosheth
& King JESUS – SEEKS OUT YOU

So that he can pour out ON YOUR LIFE
the steadfast love - of his MERCY and his GRACE

Maybe you think you've learned to live
With your broken & crippled heart

But God is seeking you – to FREELY Give you –
His steadfast & unconditional love

As we read in - 2 Samuel 9:5 (ESV)

5 Then King David sent and brought him (insert your name here) from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar.

At this point, Mephibosheth is most likely saying to himself

***"Well, it's my time - - It's time to receive what I'm due.
I've hid out long enough - - I've covered up long enough***

***I've been isolated and desolate long enough.
The king has called me - - It's time to face the judgment"***

He knew this is what he deserved - & there was no avoiding it

& so we read in - 2 Samuel 9:6 (ESV)

6 And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage (deep respect). And David said, "Mephibosheth!" And he answered, "Behold, I am your servant."

Finally – Mephibosheth is brought before the king

& this **crippled, broken** man – falls on his face before the king expecting exactly what he **DESERVES**

But then - something happens

The greatest King of Israel, who had every right to bring judgment against Mephibosheth

instead - says the same words to Mephibosheth that God the Father wants to say to YOU !!

2 Samuel 9:7(A) (ESV)

7 And David said to him, “Do not fear, for I will show you kindness . . .

HESED - Mercy, Grace, - Faithful, Unconditional Love

"Do not fear. I'm not going to give you what you deserve.
I'm going to give you what you don't deserve

I'm going to give you Mercy & Grace
I'm going to give you my steadfast and faithful love.

Why, God, why?

2 Samuel 9:7(B) – David says to Mephibosheth (ESV)

7 . . . for the sake of your father Jonathan . . .

& God says to you – This is NOT because you've earned,
or deserved, or could ever repay

I'm going to pour out my **MERCY** & **GRACE** & **LOVE** on you
For the SAKE of my Son Jesus Christ

THAT is the story of the **Entire Bible**

God does NOT give us – what we Rightfully Deserve
But instead gives us what we **could NEVER Deserve**

For the sake of the Covenant that has been Accomplished
thru the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ

It is For the sake - of His Son – Jesus

If you will come - crippled & broken,
falling on your face before God,

You will receive - **NOT the judgment you deserve**

But instead - **MERCY, GRACE**, and the **never-ending love** –
of the God of the universe

Who has **BECOME** – **HIMSELF** – the **ONLY Way** Possible
For you to be **SAVED** – Instead of **JUDGED**

So - **WHY** are we still living in Lo-debar?

Why are we still living in that
crippled, lame, isolated, & desolate place

When God is **SEEKING US** - to pour out His steadfast love on us

WHAT PART of this Story – **do we NOT Get?**

& Incredibly, the King is just getting started

Because **Now that MERCY has been Given**
(*that's Mephibosheth NOT getting the Judgment he deserves*)

Now the GRACE begins
(*which is Mephibosheth getting what he does NOT Deserve*)

2 Samuel 9:7(C) (ESV)

7 . . . and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father . . .

I'm sure Mephibosheth is still face-down - Still Struggling to accept that he's just been spared from **JUDGMENT**

Now – he hears the King say –

I am going to make you – a **Joint HEIR** – of **MY Kingdom**

The Land that WAS Saul's - is NOW the Land of King David

& so – The King – is sharing HIS Kingdom – with Mephibosheth

There was **NO sense** to this – **NO Logic**

There is only **ONE REASON** this is happening. . .

For the sake of the Covenant the King made, with Jonathon

Which is the only reason that you & I

can become Joint-Heirs of the Kingdom of God

But - the **GRACE** - just Keeps On Coming

At the end of V.7 – King David says to the Damaged Mephibosheth

Who's been living in that a desolate & Isolated place

2 Samuel 9:7(D) (ESV)

7 . . . and you shall eat at my table always.”

Mephibosheth's head is spinning – he's Mumbling to himself

“WHAT, O King, are you talking about?”

"I deserve only judgment - & instead you are making me a Joint-Heir to your Kingdom

& not only that - but you are going to have ME eat at YOUR table - always?"

There is no way Mephibosheth could begin to **GRASP**
All That is going on here

& if we would better-grasp God's Grace in our own lives
We would feel the same way

& We would **never again** - **look down** on another person
or **judge** another person

Instead we would have - the same response Mephibosheth had
when he could finally got the courage to **SPEAK** to the King

2 Samuel 9:8 (ESV)

8 And he (Mephibosheth) paid homage (he bowed low) and said, "What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?"

Mephibosheth says to King David -
what we should say – on a Regular Basis – to God

"Who am I, God, that you would sacrifice so much - that you would sacrifice the life of your own son for me

not just to give me Eternal Life - but to make me a joint heir of the Kingdom – WITH Your Son

*and not only make me a joint heir,
but Carry me – to your Banqueting Table?*

Who am I, God? - - Who am I - that You would do that for me?"

Guys - We don't **GRASP**
how **GREAT** God's **GRACE** is toward us

& that's what makes us think much more highly of ourselves
than we should

We are **crippled**, **lame**, & **hiding**
in a **desolate place** - called **Lo-debar**

& when we begin to understand God's Amazing Grace
We say with Mephibosheth . . .

***"What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog
such as I ?"***

But – King David doesn't respond to Mephibosheth's
correct description of himself

Instead – in 2 Samuel 9:9–10 (ESV)

***9 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.***

10 And you and your sons and your servants . . . → →

10 . . . shall till the land for him and shall bring in the produce, that your master's grandson may have bread to eat (meaning 'household'). But Mephibosheth your master's grandson shall always eat at my table." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

Suddenly this crippled, lame, desolate placed Mephibosheth is **SHARING** in the Kingdom of Israel's **Greatest KING**

With 35 servants to care
for the All the Grace that's been given to him

But the **Dead-Dog** comment **PROVES**

Mephibosheth knows he doesn't **deserve** it,
hasn't **earned** it, and can **never repay** it.

But the king has Poured it ALL out on him . . .
For the sake of the covenant - the King made with Jonathan

& God pours our his Steadfast Love – Upon **OUR LIVES**
THRU His Mercy & Grace

Because of the Covenant of Grace – that we Become **PART OF**
THRU Faith in Jesus Christ

& so – we read in 2 Samuel 9:11 (ESV)

11 Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king commands his servant, so will your servant do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table, like one of the king's sons.

WAIT A MINUTE !!

We knew Mephibosheth received **MERCY** instead of JUDGMENT

We knew he was **SHARING** in the Kingdom of David

We knew he was given **35 SERVANTS** to care for him

We knew he was going to **EAT ALWAYS** at the King's Table

But – **Look again** - at the end of Verse 11. ***“Mephibosheth will eat at David's table, like one of the king's sons.”***

When does this end? - How much more can God GIVE YOU than to make you a full-fledged adopted son or daughter ?

Mephibosheth is saying . . . ***“But, But . . . I'm undeserving; I'm crippled - I'm carrying baggage – I have scars from this life I can't even walk on my own. & I come from a desolate place. And You God, are going to make me an Adopted son?”***

“Why, God?” . . .

“For the sake of MY Son Jesus Christ” God says.

There's no **Greater** Grace – No **Greater** Love than God making a **DEAD DOG** – A Joint-Heir to his kingdom

Finally - in 2 Samuel 9:12-13 (ESV) → → →

2 Samuel 9:12-13 (ESV)

12 And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Mica. And all who lived in Ziba's house became Mephibosheth's servants.

13 So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem (the city of God), for he ate always at the king's table. Now he was lame in both his feet.

But Wait (again) God . . .

Why would you leave him **lame**?

Why would you leave him with the **baggage**, & with the **scars**?

Why wouldn't you just make him **Perfect**? & **Whole**?

Maybe to remind you - & others –
of the **GRACE of God** at work in your life

Paul says it this way - 2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV)

9 [The Lord] said to me, "My GRACE is sufficient for you, for my POWER is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

After all the **incredible** - **indescribable** - **MERCY** & **GRACE**
that was Showered on Mephibosheth

The last words are **Now he was lame in both his feet**

Now - There's just one more picture I want to paint for you.

In the paragraph just before our story – in **2 Samuel 8:15**
There is a List of King David's Dignitaries

These are the Top Officials in David's Kingdom

& if there were the Most **FORMAL** & **GREAT** Banquet
These are the Dignitaries who would be there

Can you see - the greatest banqueting hall - in the palace of the king
Prepared for a Full-Dress Formal Banquet

& the entourages begin to arrive.

One by one, the dignitaries would emerge - & they would be
escorted into the grand dining room - to dine with the King.

In **2 Samuel 8:16** is the 1st Dignitary listed
JOAB – who was commander of the army

Joab would come in first - Walking proud and sharp. He would be
in command and control - in full dress uniform.

Next in **Verse 16** is - ***JEHOSHAPHAT - the recorder.***

He was the Official Historian - He would come in with pen and scroll – to
record all that would happen during the Banquet

Next in **Verse 17**, ***ZADOK & ABIATHAR – the priests.***

Arriving in full dress garb - Everything about them - righteous and proper

They would quickly and easily judge every person in the room
(That's what priests tend to do)

Verse 17 continues, "***SERAI AH was the scribe.***"

Not only the priests, but the scribe. The most learned and astute – He knew the Law by Memory – He may've been copying the Torah that day

Verse 18 - ***BENAI AH – who was over both the Cherethites and the Pelethites.***

These were the elite guard of David's army
They were the CIA and the Special Forces

Benaiah was in charge of security –
& he was about to get very concerned.

Finally **Verse 18** says ***David's sons were priests.***

The way the word is used
it may be referring to Chief Ministers or Leaders

But they were there – **PROUD** to be the **King's SONS**

All those of the highest honor are now in place
But they're not sitting – Because they're waiting for King David to Sit

Finally - **King David** himself would enter the room - with all of the pomp and circumstance that was right for the greatest king of Israel

But . . . King David is still standing
& so everyone else is still standing

Something's seems wrong – Everything is in place
But the King is not sitting down

& while the dignitaries are waiting – quietly & patiently
They hear an unusual sound – coming down the hallway

It sounds like something's dragging down the hall - It seems out of place
Shhhh . . . Bump - - Shhh . . . Bump

Finally – **BOTH** doors open – & in comes Mephibosheth

He wants to walk - but he can't
because the world he's lived in has made him lame

He's dragging his feet. & he's being carried
& he is there – wholly & completely – **BY GRACE**

And every dignitary - who's earned their position - watches in awe
as Mephibosheth is **Carried To The Table**

Not King David, not the priests, not the scribe, not the dignitaries
Mephibosheth sits down first.

& when he sits down, the tablecloth of the king covers his feet

He's still carrying the scars of his life, but you can't see it
because the Table of the King – is covering his pain

Most Incredibly – Mephibosheth sits,
not as a guest at the king's table – but as a son

& the Table of the Lord – Covers Not only his Infirmities
But also his Past

And NOW that Mephibosheth has taken his place
the banquet can begin.

Romans 8:15 (ESV)

15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

Once **WE** sit at the king's table

NOT because we're worthy, **BUT** because of His **Mercy** and **Grace**,
& for the sake of His Son – **THEN** the banquet can begin

That's how **FULL OF GRACE** our God is

Have you recognized your True Position?

& Have you cried out to God – to Carry you to the Table?

Have you acknowledged that you are broken, crippled,
& living in a desolate & barren place - and said,

"God, here I am. Just as I am,
I will come to you - & fall on my face before You

Trusting in Your **MERCY**, Your **GRACE**,
& Your incredible **UNCONDITIONAL LOVE**

I want to give you a chance to **DO THAT** Now

If you Come before the Lord today - & bow Before Him

He will **NOT** Give you what you deserve.

He will give you the **MERCY & GRACE** that you Need

& we're going to play a song – Written for this exact text

& I'm going to ask you – to come here – to the cross – with me
& Surrender your life completely

To the Greatest King of Kings – Jesus Christ

Who will **POUR OUT** the **MERCY** & **GRACE** of God

That you so Badly Need

He will make you a Son or Daughter of The Heavenly Father

& **HE will CARRY YOU** – To the **TABLE OF THE LORD**

Let's Pray