

Sermon Based Group Homework

For the message on September 3, 2017

Passage: 2 Samuel 9:1-13

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's message, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Growing up, what were family meal times like in your home most of the time? Drive thru, Feast fit for a king, Home cooking, Microwave dinners, Every person for themselves, Hit and miss, or Take out/Delivery?
2. Describe a time when someone (other than the Lord) showed you kindness that you didn't deserve. How did you feel afterwards?

LET'S GO DEEPER

1. In the message on Sunday, Mike described how Mephibosheth had every reason to have a lowly view of himself according to the world's standards. What can you learn from the following verses about the mindset of the world when it comes to finding acceptance and self-worth?

1 Samuel 16:7 (ESV)

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

Luke 12:15 (ESV)

And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

2 Corinthians 10:12 (ESV)

Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.

Can you think of some other ways that people strive to find self-worth and acceptance apart from God?

Have you ever tried to be accepted among your peers or build your self-worth on something or someone other than the Lord? Describe your experience.

2. The plight of Mephibosheth is a great picture of fallen mankind. How do some of the following passages describe the condition of the spiritually lost person?

Titus 1:15-16 (ESV)

To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

Ephesians 4:18 (ESV)

They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

1 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV)

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

Based on what these verses reveal about the condition of mankind apart from God, why do you think God wants to show such great kindness to sinners?

How do you feel about people in your sphere of influence who aren't believers? Does your attitude reflect the attitude of Jesus towards them? If so, how are you reaching out to them with kindness?

3. David promised Mephibosheth that he would always eat at the king's table and that he shouldn't fear losing his place. What a great picture of what happens when we are adopted into God's family through faith in Christ! What do the following verses promise us as believers about our place in God's family once we have come to know Christ?

John 6:39 (ESV)

And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.

John 10:28-29 (ESV)

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Ephesians 1:13-14 (ESV)

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

According to Samuel 9:7, did David place any conditions on Mephibosheth for keeping his seat at the king's table? What did David base his kindness upon?

According to Titus 3:4-6, what is God's basis for showing you kindness, mercy, and forgiveness?

TAKE IT HOME

Why do some people have a difficult time believing they are worthy of God's acceptance and forgiveness? If you struggle sometimes believing that God loves you for free, describe how the group can pray for you. This week, read the following passage of

scripture aloud until you begin to accept your standing as a dearly loved and fully accepted child of God.

(In the following passages, substitute the word “me” for “us” to personalize it)

Romans 8:37-39 (ESV)

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 2:4-5 (ESV)

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

Prayer Requests:

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