

2 Samuel 9: The Kindness of the King

Give God Glory

2 Samuel 8

- Victorious life as we dedicate previous victories to the LORD
- David gave the glory to God

I. Debt of Love

Romans 13:8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:8 [Phillips] Keep out of debt altogether, except the perpetual debt of love which we owe to one another. The man who loves his neighbor has obeyed the whole Law in regard to his neighbor.

1Then David said, "Is there yet anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for **Jonathan's sake**?"

- King Saul's son Jonathan and David: **True Love/Friends in Christ**
- **Relationship Based on Love:** Knit together in Christ Centered Unity

1 Samuel 18:1b ...the soul of Jonathan was **knit to the soul** of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

Colossians 2:2 [Prayer for the Colossian Church] ...that their hearts may be encouraged, being **knit together in love**

- **Relationship based on Humility:** Wanting the best for the other:

1 Samuel 18:4 ...Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.

Philippians 2:1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. [No debt but the debt of love]

- **Relationship based on God's Word:** No idol talk

1 Samuel 23:16 Then Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God.

2 Samuel 1:4 [David asked about the war with Philistines] ... "The people have fled from the battle, many of the people are fallen and dead, and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also."

- Brotherly relationship that is rare today:

2 Samuel 1:26 I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; You have been very pleasant to me; Your love to me was wonderful, Surpassing the love of women. [We don't mourn as the world...but we mourn]

2 Samuel 21:12 Then David went and took the bones of Saul, and the bones of Jonathan his son

1. Based on Love
2. Based on Humility
3. Based on God's Word

- **Covenant:** Agreement

1 Samuel 20:13 (Read) "If it please my father [Saul] to do you harm, may the LORD do so to Jonathan and more also, if I do not make it **known to you** and send you away, that you may go in safety And may the LORD be with you as He has been with my father. 14 "If I am still alive, will you not show me the **loving-kindness of the LORD**, that I may not die? 15 "You shall not cut off your **loving-kindness from my house forever**, not even when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth."

When my father Saul is dead and you are King of Israel, show me the loving-kindness the Lord has shown you by not killing my entire family

- Saul is dead
- Jonathan is dead
- What will David do?

1 Then David said, "Is there yet anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for **Jonathan's sake**?"

- David goes the extra mile: Anyone left of Saul that I can show kindness to?
 1. **Mercy:** Not giving a person the judgment they deserve
 2. **Grace:** One step more; i.e. Lavishing blessing on those who don't deserve it

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.**"

- **Ziba:** I am your servant: Improper greeting. Bowing is appropriate

- Over Saul's entire house...expecting to be blessed [As proved out later]:

Entitlement Mentality?

- I took care of Saul's house...I deserve his stuff
- Seeking to promote self...I have my rights...I'm entitled to everything they have?

Luke 14: 7 [Jesus] began speaking a parable to the invited guests when He noticed how they had been picking out the places of honor at the table, saying to them, **8**"When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, **do not take the place of honor**, for someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him **9**and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this man,' and **then in disgrace you proceed to occupy the last place.** **10**"But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, '**Friend, move up higher**'; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are at the table with you. **11**"**For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."**

Law of Exaltation: Last first; first last

- Notice v.10: Recline, or rest in the last place (**be satisfied**)

God is a debtor to no one...He owes us nothing!

- Zeba expected to receive because he was keeper of Saul's house
- Zeba expected to be honored because of "**who he was**" in the world:

James 2:1 My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. **2** For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, **3** and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," **4** have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? [Choosing the guy who would tithe more]

- When choosing the King of Israel to rule God's people, God said to Samuel:

1 Samuel 16:7 ..."Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, **but the LORD looks at the heart.**"

- David had the heart of Jesus: **Law to the Proud and Grace to the Humble**

3 The king said, "Is there not yet anyone of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan **who is crippled in both feet.**"**4** So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel in Lo-debar." **5** Then King David sent and brought

him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar.

- **Crippled in both feet**; why mention that?; hint at Zeba's character
- How did Jonathan's son become crippled?

2 Samuel 4:4 [...After Philistines killed Saul and Jonathan 5 year old Mephibosheth was carried by his nurse as she was running away and] ... **in her hurry to flee, he fell and became lame And his name was Mephibosheth.**

- **Jonathan's son**: Would-be heir to the Throne of Israel; threat to David

SUMMARY: Debt of Love: David reflects God's love/kindness to others; Jonathan and son

- David sends for Mephibosheth...

II. Humility Exemplified

6 Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and prostrated himself. And David said, "Mephibosheth." And he said, "Here is your servant!"

- Fell on his face prostrate: Contrast Ziba
- "Here is your servant!"

Will I be humiliated by the King?

7 David said to him, "**Do not fear**, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and will **restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul**; and you shall **eat at my table regularly.**"

- **Do not fear**: David a type of Christ

"Fear not" or "Be not afraid" 103 times - 365 times

- **Mephibosheth**: Picture of our sinful state; we are all people with a disability...sin
- **God's Promise to the Humble/Remnant**: Restoration and Exaltation

Joel 2:24 [Read] The threshing floors will be full of grain, And the vats will overflow with the new wine and oil.²⁵ "Then I will make up to you for the years That the swarming locust has eaten, The creeping locust, the stripping locust and the gnawing locust, My great army which I sent among you. ²⁶ "You will have plenty to eat and be satisfied And praise the name of the Lord your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; Then My people will never be put to shame. ²⁷ "Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, And that I am the Lord your God, And there is no other; And My people will never be put to shame.

8 Again he prostrated himself and said, "What is your servant, that you should regard a dead **dog like me?**"

- **David and Mephibosheth** more alike than one would think...

Psalms 8:4 What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him?

1 Samuel 24:14 "After whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog, a single flea?"

- **Dead dog:** New Testament parallel of humility

Mark 7: 25 ...after hearing of [Jesus], a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately came and fell at His feet. 26 Now the woman was a Gentile, of the Syrophenician race. And she **kept asking Him** to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27 And He was saying to her, "Let the children be satisfied first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and **throw it to the dogs.**" 28 But she answered and said to Him, "Yes, Lord, but even the dogs under the table feed on the children's crumbs." 29 And He said to her, "**Because of this answer** go; the demon has gone out of your daughter." 30 And going back to her home, she found the child lying on the bed, the demon having left.

- Who do we think we are?
 1. **Too highly:** Pride
 2. **Too lowly:** Pride
 3. **Don't be too big...** too small...be medium

David/Jesus are humble and are attracted by humility

Matthew 11: 29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, **for I am gentle and humble in heart**, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. [Jesus, the only One who could say he was humble]"

1 Peter 5:5...clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS **OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.**

- Law to the Proud and Grace to the Humble. Period.
- David draws close to Mephibosheth; arms length to Ziba

III. Humility Rewarded

9 Then the king called Saul's servant Ziba and said to him, "All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your **master's grandson.**"

10 "You and your sons and your servants shall cultivate the land for him, and you shall bring in the produce so that your master's grandson may have food; nevertheless Mephibosheth your **master's grandson** shall eat at my table regularly." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

- **Master's grandson** repeated
- You (Ziba) work the land that he "may have food.." though
- **...he will eat at my table regularly.**

11Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king commands his servant so your servant will do."

- Ziba grudgingly agrees to the terms

11b So Mephibosheth ate at David's table **as one of the king's sons.**
 12Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Mica. And all who lived in the house of Ziba were servants to Mephibosheth. 13 So **Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate at the king's table regularly Now he was lame in both feet.**

1. Ate at the King's Table as a King's son
2. Lived in Royal City Jerusalem: Previously far
3. ...he was lame in both feet

CONCLUSION: God helps those who absolutely know they cannot help themselves! Those who believe they are okay...are doomed

John: 9: 35 (Setup)

- Man is blind from birth though no ones sinned to cause it
- Why? "...that the works of God might be displayed."
- Jesus heals him; Pharisees question his blindness
- Called parents as witnesses
- Pharisees pressure the man to agree Jesus is a "sinner"
- Whether sinner or not **"I was blind but now I see"**
- Pharisees put him out of the synagogue

John: 9:35 Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36He answered, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" 37Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you." 38And he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him. 39And Jesus said,

"For judgment I came into this world, so that **those who do not see may see**, and that those who see may **become blind.**" 40Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, **"We are not blind too, are we?"** 41Jesus said to them, **"If**

you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

...that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.

- Pride says God owes you: He is not a debtor to anyone!
- If you are hurting, battered, He will heal (restore your soul)
- If you have just a little fire, he will fan it into a flame [Matthew 12:20]

**"A BATTERED REED HE WILL NOT BREAK OFF, AND A
SMOLDERING WICK HE WILL NOT PUT OUT**

Psalm 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Contrite: (Lt. to crush or to grind) Regretful, sorrow for ones sins. Knowing our absolute need for God

Isaiah 57:15 For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, **"I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.**

Isaiah 66:2 "For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being," declares the LORD "But to this one I will look, To him who is **humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.**

Mephibosheth had nothing to offer...just hoping not to be humiliated he would sit at the Kings table forever because of the kindness and faithfulness of a King; a King who knew the kindness and faithfulness of the King of Kings!

If we come to Jesus acknowledging our need for forgiveness and wholeness, offering our very lives to Him, we will also sit at the Kings table...Forever