

GOOD WILL HUNTING

David's victory over Goliath truly set the tone for his military leadership moving forward. His bold faith and zeal for God coupled with his incredible courage in the face of great challenges showed us why it was that God selected him to be the next king of Israel. The way David conducted himself as a faithful servant to Saul and as a bold military leader shows us why it was that David was the right choice to be the next king in Israel. But there is more to being a great king than just being bold and fierce. A truly great king should also be someone who has a heart like God's heart! Someone who is fierce when it comes to standing against ungodliness and evil, but also gracious and compassionate with those who are in need. A balance between righteous indignation and mercy! And David was that kind of king. In fact, Samuel said this to Saul when he had informed him that God had selected someone (DAVID) to take his place as the next King of Israel **1 Samuel 13:14 (NIV)**the Lord has sought out a man after His own heart and appointed him ruler of His people,.....” **Oh that God would say that about you and me!** That you and I would live our lives in such a way that God would say, Do you see that man over there? Do you see that woman? **They are someone that reflects My heart!** No greater compliment could be given to us than that!! So let me ask you a question this morning, **Can God say that about you? IS YOUR HEART ONE THAT REFLECTS HIS HEART?**

Well welcome to our final week of **AGAINST ALL ODDS**. As we close out this third section of our THROUGH THE BIBLE SERIES I think it is only fitting that as we do we be reminded of the Gospel of GRACE so that you and I will be bearers of grace to those around us. We are not only called to stand for what is right and true but we are also called to be gracious and merciful as we do so. So, to help us do that this morning I want us to embrace the benefits of GRACE so that we may let GRACE abound in and through our lives. If you will find **2 Samuel 9** in your portion of God's word I am going to **PRAY for us** as we prepare to get into God's word today.

As we come to **2 Samuel 9** quite a bit has transpired since David took down Goliath! David had become recognized as a great military leader in Israel and as you could imagine his popularity began to soar. During his rise to fame in Israel, David developed a very close friendship with Jonathan, Saul's son. As a result of David's rise in popularity and his close relationship with Saul's son Jonathan, Saul became very jealous of David and tried to have him killed on several occasions. But, because David was a man after God's own heart, David continued to serve King Saul faithfully even though God had presented David with multiple opportunities to take King Saul's life. As you can imagine, the tension between David and Saul only escalated and became more intense thus David eventually had to go into hiding. When we get to the end of **1 Samuel**, the Philistines end up killing three of the four sons of Saul including Jonathan (David's best friend) while wounding Saul in their attempt to defeat him. Rather than be taken captive and killed at the hands of the Philistines Saul throws himself on his own sword. **2 Samuel** begins with the anointing of David as king by the men of Judah while Abner (who was the commander of Saul's army) makes Ishbosheth (Saul's only remaining son) king in his father's place. Remember from last week that God had already selected David to be the next King of Israel. In **2 Samuel Chapter 4** after the death of Aber (the commander of the army) Ishbosheth loses

heart to be king and two of his own men, concerned about the future of the nation moving forward, form a plot and kill Ishbosheth so that David can now become king over all Israel. After hearing about what these men did to Ishbosheth, David has these two men executed for treason against the king. After all that drama. And after all that David had been through personally at the hands of Saul's jealousy. David still loved and respected Saul and his family. As a result, David made sure justice was served on their behalf. And that brings us to the beautiful picture of GRACE that we see demonstrated in **2 Samuel 9**. Because even though David is now going to be recognized as king in all Israel, David's heart still belongs to the ONE TRUE KING, YAHWEH THE LORD!

As we look at our passage this morning I want us to see THREE ACTIONS of GRACE demonstrated by DAVID and that God demonstrates toward us and my prayer is that we would allow these same ACTIONS of GRACE to be extended through our lives into the lives of others. The first ACTION of GRACE that I want you to see is,

Grace Seeks Us Out

The most beautiful part of GRACE is that it searches for us; we don't go searching for it. It comes to where we are and it grants us what we need. In fact, because of our situation we can't go looking for it because we don't have the ability to do so **2 Samuel 9:1-4 (NIV)** **1** David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?" **2** Now there was a servant of Saul's household named Ziba. They summoned him to appear before David, and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" "At your service," he replied. **3** The king asked, "Is there no one still alive from the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?" Ziba answered the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is lame in both feet."

Like Mephibosheth we are stuck in an impossible situation. His was physical while ours is spiritual. He was bound by his deformed body. We are bound by our sin that has deformed the image of God in us. All of his family was gone. He was limited physically and bound because of his physical limitations to a life of poverty. If someone doesn't help him he is in trouble. Likewise our sin disconnects us from our heavenly Father and we are spiritually destitute. Unless someone comes to help us we are in big trouble. If God's grace doesn't come looking for us we are in a losing situation just like Mephibosheth. Paul reminds us of this in his letter to the Romans.

Romans 5:6-8 (NIV) **6** You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. **7** Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. **8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

GRACE recognizes that we are powerless and it comes looking for us! Notice what David asked?

4 “Where is he?” the king asked. Ziba answered, “He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar.”

It was the same kind of question God asked Adam after sin had caused him and Eve to go into hiding in the garden. **Genesis 3:8-9 (NIV) 8** Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. **9** But the Lord God called to the man, “**Where are you?**” You might be hiding from God in your sin and shame but I want you to know something, God is enquiring about you today and He is asking what David asked. “**Where is (Place your name in the blank)?**”

Those who are in need of grace the most are those who do not even realize there is any help for their situation. They are in a place of utter hopelessness. As people who have experienced God’s GRACE we need to be on the lookout for those who are in need of GRACE!!

They are all around us and they are drowning in hopelessness.

Grace Seeks Us Out. Notice the second ACTION of GRACE,

Grace Brings Us Into the King’s Presence

Grace always ushers people into the presence of THE KING!

2 Samuel 9:5-6 (NIV) 5 So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel. **6** When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor. David said, “Mephibosheth!” “At your service,” he replied.

Just as David’s grace brought Mephibosheth into his presence, God’s grace allows us to be ushered into the presence of King Jesus. As the love of God flows into our life through grace we are to let that same grace be unleashed in the lives of others.

Ephesians 2:1-2 (NIV) As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, **2** in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

Ephesians 2:4-10 (NIV) 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **5** made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by GRACE you have been saved. **6** And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, **7** in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. **8** For it is by GRACE you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9** not by works, so that no one can boast. **10** For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Grace also removes the fear of not belonging or feelings of unworthiness that seeks to hinder our relationship with the KING. **2 Samuel 9:7-8 (NIV) 7** “Don’t be afraid,” David said to him, “for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. **I will restore to you all the**

land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table.” 8
Mephibosheth bowed down and said, “What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?”

If you are holding onto fear you can't accept grace.

1 John 4:18 (NIV) There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

In fact, God loves us so much that by His GRACE we are adopted into the family of God and therefore we have an inheritance with KING JESUS!!

Ephesians 1:4-6 (NIV) For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love **5** he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— **6** to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Grace Seeks Us Out. Grace Brings Us Into the King's Presence. Notice the last ACTION of GRACE,

Grace Gives Us More Than We Deserve

God's grace is not based on our merit! It is not based on what we deserve or don't deserve! The beauty of GRACE is it makes it so that life is not reliant on what is always fair. It is simply based on God's love and God's love is by nature lavish! Our disobedience doesn't disqualify God's grace

2 Samuel 9:9-13 (NIV) **9** Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul's steward, and said to him, “I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. **10** You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master's grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table.” (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.) **11** Then Ziba said to the king, “Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do.” **So Mephibosheth ate at David's table like one of the king's sons.** **12** Mephibosheth had a young son named Mika, and all the members of Ziba's household were servants of Mephibosheth. **13** And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king's table; he was lame in both feet.

David did what he did for Mephibosheth based on his love for Jonathan and ultimately his love for God, not based on his merit or the value he would bring to David as a king personally. Mephibosheth is lame and severely handicapped. From a practical standpoint he offers no real value to David. He can't fight. He doesn't need favor from Saul any longer. In fact, to help him it is going to cost David. It will take resources away from David practically speaking. This is also true of us when it comes to God. We add no real value to God whatsoever. We only receive from God! Yet, He still wants to help us! Why? Because He loves us!

John 3:16 (NIV) For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

God lavishly provided for our salvation because He SO LOVED us! Not because we deserved it. If we received what we deserved we would all receive death and hell. Grace by nature will always give you more than you deserve!

Worship TEAM Comes Back Up

Invitation

Those who benefit from GRACE, extend GRACE to others! The grace we show shouldn't be based on your love for the person, but rather the grace you've received. David experienced GRACE from God! How could he not extend that GRACE to others? The fact that God recognized him as the next King of Israel was grace. He had not done anything to deserve it. That's GRACE! The fact that God gave him victory over Goliath was grace. He wasn't anything special and he certainly wasn't strong enough by himself to overcome the giant! He was given GRACE!

David gave SAUL GRACE even though he wanted him dead. And David showed Saul's family GRACE! Why? Because David benefited from GRACE. GRACE is motivated by LOVE not merit! Grace is sacrificial, it isn't convenient. Grace should be given in generosity, and being generous should hurt.

Have you benefited from GRACE? If so, are you allowing your life to be that which demonstrates GRACE to others?

7 Ways we can show GRACE to others:

- 1) Kind and gentle with our words
- 2) Look for others who may need help
- 3) Respond with patience when others aggravate you
- 4) Being available and present with others who are struggling or hurting
- 5) Forgiveness
- 6) Learn to say "I'm Sorry" and ask for forgiveness when you make a mistake
- 7) Say, "Thank You!"