

Scripture Reading: II Samuel 9:1-13

Introduction: The main idea of this sermon is to see an act of *Grace* and *Mercy* and correlate that with what God has done for us as sinners.

A PICTURE OF GOD'S GRACE...

There is nothing more amazing than the grace of God that brings salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9).
An Old Testament picture of New Testament grace is Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth. He was Saul's grandson. When Saul and Jonathan died, his nurse fled with him. He fell and became lame (2 Samuel 4:4).

[Quotes on the Meaning of Mercy]

"The real meaning of mercy is that it can look on failure and still see a future." --John Claypool
Kent Crockett's Sermon Illustrations, www.kentcrockett.com

"Mercy is sympathy with legs on it" –Author unknown.

Background Observation:

Sharing God's kindness (2 Sam. 9:1-13)

"*The kindness of God*" is the one of two themes in this chapter (vv. 1, 3, 7), and it means the mercy and favor of the Lord to undeserving people.

Paul saw the kindness of God in the coming of Jesus Christ and His work on the cross (Titus 3:1-7 [3:4]; Eph. 2:1-9 [2:7]), and we see in David's dealings with Mephibosheth a picture of God's kindness to lost sinners.

David had promised both Saul and Jonathan that he would not exterminate their descendants when he became king (1 Sam. 20:12-17, 42; 24:21), and in the case of Jonathan's son Mephibosheth, David not only kept his promise but went above and beyond the call of duty.

--Bible Exposition Commentary (BE Series) - Old Testament - The Bible Exposition Commentary – History.

I believe David was kind for two reasons:

1. David was kind to this man **partly** because of his loyalty to Saul—God's previous anointed king.
2. David was kind **primarily** however because of his vow to Jonathan to show mercy to all his descendants.

I want to preach tonight on the subject of:

"The King and the Cripple!"

Notice a few things with me about Mephibosheth this evening:

- I. **He was in a Far-Off Country—v. 4**
Lodebar means "a place of barrenness; no bread; thus, a place of death and destruction."

He was of no value to the King (physically and practically speaking).

Before we were saved, we too were afar off from God—separated from Him and of no value (Eph. 2:1)!

Whatever the king would decide to do for this person would be nothing short of an act of mercy and grace.

II. **He Was Fallen—V. 3**

He was crippled! When he was a baby, his nurse (or Nanny), was fleeing during a battle and fell with him. In that fall, he was injured and left paralyzed or crippled.

[**Illus**] Adam and Eve had us all in their arms, so to speak, when they ran from God and when they fell, we fell with them.

Just how bad off are we? Well let's just see:

1. We have throat trouble.

Romans 3:13a

¹³Their *throat* is an open sepulchre;

2. We have tongue trouble.

Romans 3:13b

¹³ ...with their *tongues* they have used deceit;

3. We have lip trouble.

Romans 3:13c

¹³ ... the poison of asps *is* under their *lips*:

4. We have mouth trouble.

Romans 3:14 (KJV)

¹⁴Whose *mouth* *is* full of cursing and bitterness:

5. We have eye trouble.

Romans 3:18 (KJV)

¹⁸There is no fear of God before their *eyes*.

6. We have hand trouble.

Psalm 26:10 (KJV)

¹⁰In whose hands *is* mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes.

7. We have foot trouble.

Romans 3:15 (KJV)

¹⁵Their feet *are* swift to shed blood:

8. Worse than all of these; we have HEART trouble!

Jeremiah 17:9 (KJV)

⁹The *heart* is deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

III. He was Fetched—Vv. 1, 5

The king sent for him; the reason being (as I stated earlier), the covenant that David and Jonathan—Mephibosheth’s father—had made long ago.

So in actuality, the king was doing this for Jonathan; not necessarily for Mephibosheth.

The primary reason God shows mercy to us is because of the covenant made between Him and His Son Jesus long, long ago!

I’m glad God and His son came to where I was too:

Luke 19:10 (KJV)

¹⁰For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

IV. He was Fearful—VV. 6-7

He [Meph] was greatly humbled by this act but also greatly frightened because he knew what normally happened to the descendants of a former King!

Once we see what we are, and we understand that we deserved nothing and that all we are is because of Calvary: all there is left for us to do is to fall on our faces and say with the Apostle Paul, “*I am what I am by the grace of God!*”

V. He was Forwarded—V. 11

He was made a Son!

He was not placed among the servants but among the sons!
Is that not what God done for us?

1 John 3:1-2 (KJV)

¹Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

²Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

VI. He was Favored—V. 12

He was given special care—special treatment!!!

Servants were appointed to look after him!

I believe the Bible teaches that every follower of Christ has at least one or more guardian angels...

Psalms 34:7 (KJV)

⁷The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

Invitation Hymn: (Big) # _____ “*To be determined in service*”

Hebrews 1:14 (KJV)

¹⁴Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

VII. **He was Given a Continual Feast—V. 13**

He would never have to leave the King’s table and would never again experience barrenness or no bread—thus no death or destruction!

Praise God, neither do we!!!

Conclusion:

Hey, friends, has anything ever changed in your life?

Are you still living in a barren state?

In other words, **Have You Ever Met the King?**

If not, why don’t you accept His invitation tonight and get on board the chariot and feast continually at His table?

If you are saved, why don’t you get your joy full—or maybe get it back—and be thankful that you once were lost, starved, and dying but now thank God you’re *feasting?*

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Beach, B. Camp Canaan—Ringgold, GA.—p.m. 6/12/97
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