

## INTRODUCTION

Hey, if you have your Bibles, and I hope you do,

- please grab them and turn to 2 Samuel chapter 9.
- You can open a phone or a tablet to 2 Samuel 9,
- or you can use one of the hard-backed black bibles
  - under every single chair.
  - You'll find 2 Samuel 9 on page **260**.

## INTRODUCTION

Today the passage we are in deals with the topic of **SLIDE GENEROSITY**

- Yes, we're talking about GENEROSITY...
  - and yes, that includes money.

And I know that makes some of you uncomfortable right off the bat...

- and you're looking around and saying,
- "Why the heck did I come to church on a money Sunday?"
- "Gosh, Pastor, I invited a friend today,
  - and you're gonna do that to me?"

But you know who isn't uncomfortable talking about generosity in church?

Generous people!

And we're not doing a money series or something...

This is just what's next in the book of 2 Samuel.

- But if we take the words of Jesus seriously
  - that where your treasure is,
  - there your heart will be also,
- then how can we rightly disciple people...
- without talking about the #1 competitor for our hearts?

## TRANSITION

So, we're going to talk about it because that's what God's Word talks about.

And let me buffer this way:

- we aren't taking an extra offering.
- We aren't hurting as a church financially.
- We aren't doing a giving campaign.

This is just a part of our regular study of God's Word, ok?

## RECAP: GOD'S GENEROSITY TO DAVID

So, last week we worked through chapter 7,

- and in it we saw one of the clearest Gospel link-ups...
- in the books of 1 and 2 Samuel.

David feels compelled to build God a house...a temple...

- so that the Ark of the Covenant isn't kept in the tent anymore.

But God flips the script on David and says,

- *"You're not gonna build me a house.*
- *I'll build you a house."*

And God meant a legacy, a family line, a dynasty of kings...

- that would ultimately produce Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

And at the end of chapter 7,

- in response to this lavish generosity,
- David praises the Lord with a prayer of gratitude.

And I ended last week saying...

- that God's generosity to David would lead somewhere...
- well, that's where we'll go today.

## TRANSITION: CHAPTER 8

Now, in chapter 8 God gives David four more great victories in war.

- And David takes the spoils from these victories,
  - and he doesn't put them into his palace,
- but rather he sets them aside for the future temple of God...
- that his son, Solomon, would one day construct.

But we're gonna skip chapter 8...

- because it's really just a list of those victories...
- and then the names of David's officials.

And instead, we're just gonna park in chapter 9 today,

- because it's in chapter 9...
- that we see David's response to God's generosity.

So, here we go. 2 Samuel 9 starting in verse 1:

### 1 SAMUEL 9:1

[1] And David said, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

## EXPLAIN: JONATHAN

Now, we need to pause right here,

- because there are names here...
  - that if you are newer to Fathom...
  - or newer to Bible study...
- you might not recognize.

Saul had been the first King of Israel.

- but he failed to rule like God wanted him to...
- and God said this:

## **SLIDE 1 SAMUEL 15:28**

[28] And Samuel said to him, “The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.”

### **EXPLAIN: PRIMOGENITURE**

Enter David...

But, the rule of primogeniture is how kingdoms worked.

- Where the eldest son succeeds the father as the next king.

So, the second name in our verse,

- Jonathan,
  - was King Saul’s eldest son.
- Jonathan was legit, and probably would have been a good king.
  - But in light of Saul’s failures,
  - God makes David king instead of Jonathan.

But, Jonathan and David were best friends.

And in 1 Samuel chapter 20 Jonathan says this to David...

- after recognizing that he was anointed by God...
- to be the next king:

## **SLIDE 1 SAMUEL 20:14–15**

[14] If I am still alive, show me the steadfast love of the LORD, that I may not die; [15] and do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever, when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.”

## TRANSITION

So, David had sworn to Jonathan...

- not to cut off his family...
- once he became king.

But now it's about 25 years later...

- and in response to God's **SLIDE GENEROSITY** to him,
- David is looking to make good on his promise to Jonathan.
  - So, he asks if there were any heirs left...
  - from the house of Saul and Jonathan...
  - with whom he might be generous.

Verse 2:

### 1 SAMUEL 9:2-6

[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?" Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet." [4] The king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar." [5] Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar. [6] And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, "Mephibosheth!" And he answered, "Behold, I am your servant."

## EXPLAIN: MEPHIBOSHETH

Enter Mephibosheth...

- He is the only remaining son of Jonathan,
- and he is crippled in his feet.

Mephibosheth.

If there was ever a guy who needed a nick-name, it was Mephibosheth.

- I even thought about trying to shorten his name...
- just to make it easier on me today.
  - Phibby...
  - or maybe Meph.
- But you can see how that might be taken wrong...
  - David had a Meph problem.
  - David scoured the countryside for Meph.

So, I'll just fumble my way through this.

## EXPLAIN: ENEMY

Now, the most shocking part of this chapter is WHO Mephibosheth is.

- He is actually the heir to the throne of Saul.
  - He could be King of Israel!
  - He has a rightful claim over the very throne of David!
- That means, officially, he's David's enemy.

You see, in those days, when a new king came to the throne,

- he wouldn't want anyone of the previous king's family left alive.
  - Because, they could wait until you had a season...
  - where you were weak or unpopular...
  - and they could mount a revolt against you.
- It happened all the time.

Living relatives of the previous king were like a dormant virus in your body,

- just waiting until you're weak...
- and then they come out and attack you.

So, it was just easier to kill all potential rivals to the throne.

- As long as Mephibosheth is alive,
- there exists a potential rallying point for David's enemies.

## TRANSITION

But remember...David made this promise to Jonathan all those years ago.

And NOBODY expects David to keep that promise.

- Not even Mephibosheth.
  - He falls on his face before David, and is terrified!

It is in no way a benefit for David to be generous to Mephibosheth.

But look at what he does.

Verse 7:

## 1 SAMUEL 9:7-8

[7] And David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always." [8] And he paid homage and said, "What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?"

## EXPLAIN: WHY GENEROUS?

Now, we'll talk about HOW David was generous with Mephibosheth. But we need to start with a more important question:

- WHY was David generous with Mephibosheth?

## EXPLAIN: HESED

Well the most important word in chapter 9...

- is the word that's translated *kindness*.
  - I will show you kindness.
- We saw that word in verse 1, in verse 3, and now in verse 7.

And the English word *kindness* is kinda weak in my opinion.

- It's the right translation,
  - but it doesn't capture all that this word means.
- This is a VERY important Hebrew word.
- So important, in fact, that I'm gonna put it up on the screen.

The word is **SLIDE HESED**

- It's got that back-of-the-throat thing going on.
  - So, I sometimes try to say it...
  - like there's a K at the beginning of it.
  - KHESED.

But while translated as *kindness* here,

- it also appears in David's promise to Jonathan...
- back in 1 SAMUEL 20.

So, I'll put it up here again:

### **SLIDE 1 SAMUEL 20:14–15**

[14] If I am still alive, show me the steadfast love (**HESED**) of the LORD, that I may not die; [15] and do not cut off your steadfast love (**HESED**) from my house forever, when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth."



## EXPLAIN: COVENANT LOVE

So, here HESED is translated *steadfast love*.

But I think the best way to think of HESED...

is to translate it **SLIDE COVENANT LOVE**

- HESED is COVENANT LOVE.
- It's unconditional love.
- It's, "I'm not going anywhere," love...
- The New Testament Greek equivalent to HESED is AGAPE.
  - This binding,
  - relational,
  - covenantal love.

And that was what Jonathan had shown to David.

And that was what David had sworn to show to Jonathan's family.

- And so, WHY is David generous with Mephibosheth?
- He wants to show COVENANT LOVE to him.

## EXPLAIN: WHY NOW?

BUT the question isn't simply WHY show an enemy HESED?

- Maybe the deeper question is WHY NOW?
  - Why did this happen in chapter 9?
  - Why didn't David do this when he first took the throne?

Well, I want you to remember what we saw last week in chapter 7.

- God makes a covenant with David to build him a house..
  - a dynasty...
  - a kingdom.
- And a part of that promise were these words:

## **SLIDE 2 SAMUEL 7:15–16**

[15] but my steadfast love (**HESED**) will not depart from him (your son), as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. [16] And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

### **EXPLAIN**

- So, not only had DAVID promised HESED to Jonathan...
- but GOD had just promised HESED to David.

And in response to that,

- David searches for someone he can show HESED to.
  - David wants to find someone...
  - who he can love like he's been loved.

It's a move of **SLIDE GENEROSITY**

He wants to find someone to be generous to...  
like God's been generous to him.

### **EXPLAIN: HOW GENEROUS?**

So, if that's WHY David is generous...

Then the following question is HOW is David generous?

Well, I see two ways in this text.

First, David is generous with his **SLIDE COMMITMENTS**

Mephibosheth is afraid...

- because he was sure that he was being brought...
- into the king's presence to be killed.

But David instead, shows him HESED...

- and he invites Mephibosheth to eat at his own table...
  - like an adopted son.
- He makes his enemy a part of his family!
- He commits to him!

And Mephibosheth is shocked!

### **APPLICATION: COMMITMENT VS. CONTRACT**

Now, we really need to do a little work here,

- because COMMITMENT like this...
- is becoming more and more rare in our cultural moment.

If you read sociological studies,

- you'll see that our relationships are more CONTRACTUAL
  - rather than COMMITMENTS.

And if you ever come to a wedding that I officiate, ok?

- We had 7 Fathom weddings last year...
- and we have 8 on the books this year...
  - so, I say these kinds of things a lot...

But at every wedding I officiate,

- I talk about the difference between...
  - CONTRACTUAL relationships...
  - and COMMITTED COVENANTAL relationships.

### **ILLUSTRATION: VERIZON**

So, a CONTRACTUAL relationship sounds like this:

You have a contract for your cell phone.

- You signed up for a certain amount of data,
  - for a certain price.
- It's a consumer relationship.
- It's a contract.
  - *"We're going to give you these goods or services,*
  - *and you're going to pay that much money."*
- It's transactional.
- It's contractual.
- It's about needs being met!

And, you signed that contract...

- probably in blood.
  - And they've got you on the hook for 2-years...
    - And they'll try to lock you in again...
    - when they release the new iPhone.
- But that's not relational at all.
  - You're not in a relationship with Verizon.
  - You're under CONTRACT with Verizon.

And that means if either of you stops the reciprocity, then the contract is either renegotiated or voided out altogether.

## APPLICATION

So, in a CONTRACTUAL relationship,

- you sacrifice the relationship if your needs are not being met.

But in a COMMITTED COVENANTAL relationship,

- you sacrifice your needs in order to preserve the relationship.

What is David getting out of this relationship with Mephibosheth?

NOTHING!

But that's the nature of COMMITMENT!

- You serve and you sacrifice for the relationship...
- even when it's not meeting your needs.

That's HESED.

That's COVENANT LOVE.

But what's happening more and more in relationships...

- with our family,
- with our friends,
- with our neighbors,
- with our churches,
- and sometimes even in our relationship with God,
  - is we are putting OUR needs ABOVE the relationship...
  - rather than the RELATIONSHIP above OUR needs.

We treat our relationships as disposable!

- When my needs aren't being met...
- well, then it's time to dispose of that relationship.

But when you experience God's covenant love..when it comes into your life

- it makes you a COMMITTER...
- rather than a CONSUMER.

The default mode of your heart is changed...

- from a natural bent towards CONSUMPTION...
- to a bent towards COMMITTING.

To stick with a relationship when things get hard.

To stick with a friend when they hurt you.

To stick with a church even when things aren't going your way.

To COMMIT rather than CONSUME.

## EXPLAIN: PROVISION

So, David is generous with his COMMITMENTS.

But secondly, David is generous with **SLIDE PROVISIONS**

- He gave all the land of Saul to Mephibosheth.
- And he even goes further.

Look at verse 9:

### 1 SAMUEL 9:9-13

[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 shall till the land for him and shall bring in the produce, that your master's grandson may have bread to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's grandson shall always eat at my table." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. [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. [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, for he ate always at the king's table. Now he was lame in both his feet.

## EXPLAIN

I mean, that is some wild generosity!

- David responds to God's covenant love and generosity...
- by giving Mephibosheth a bunch of PROVISIONS.

And we're seeing a principle here:

- WE GIVE BACK TO GOD BY GIVING TO OTHERS.

And please note this is no mere chump change!

- It's radical and generational wealth.
  - Remember, Mephibosheth is technically David's enemy.
    - This act of generosity was incredibly costly...
    - and incredibly risky.

And also let's note that this isn't done under compulsion.

- God doesn't command David to do this.
- David doesn't wait for Mephibosheth's need to be made known.
  - No, he seeks out someone to be generous to!
- It's the natural overflow from his experience...
- of God's generosity toward him.

One of the most compelling verses on generosity in the New Testament is

## **SLIDE 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-7**

[6] The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. [7] Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

### **EXPLAIN: GIVING**

So, the generosity principle for Christians is this:

- we give cheerfully, sacrificially, and regularly.

What does **CHEERFULLY** mean?

- The Greek word there is *hilaros* (hill-ahr-oss)...
- where we get our word *hilarious*.

Like, I almost picture a deranged person who's so generous...

- he's just [hahaha]...
- like, making it rain!

It really means it's joyful and a true delight to bless someone else like this!

**SACRIFICIALLY** means whatever is **COSTLY** for you...in your heart.

- This generosity was **COSTLY** to David.

So, I always teach this strategy to give more sacrificially:

- if you're giving nothing, give something.
- If you're giving something, move to a percentage.
- If you're giving a percentage, try a tithe.
- And if you're tithing, move towards more sacrificial giving.

Maryse and I try to out-give ourselves each year...it's like a game we play.

- We gave 13% of our income last year
  - (most of it back here to Fathom).
- But we try to keep growing in our generosity.
  - We want it to be **COSTLY**...
  - in response to God's gracious **GENEROSITY** to us.

And finally, it should be **REGULAR**...not sparingly.

- It shouldn't just be haphazard and irregular,
  - built on fits of guilt,
  - or when you have a little extra.
- But rather, it should be a regular practice.

That's the principle of **SLIDE GENEROSITY** for Christians.



## EXPLAIN: TITHE

And just for a minute here...at Fathom we don't teach a tithe, per say.

- A tithe simply means a tenth or 10%.

We don't teach a set percentage that everyone should give.

- But it must be noted that Biblically and historically,
- the tithe was the presumed starting place for giving.
  - It's where you started...
  - not where you aspired to get.

And it is always fascinating to me...

- that in the wealthiest country,
- in the wealthiest point of history,
- we are the LEAST generous people in HISTORY!

People often tell me that they could NEVER give a tenth...

when statistically they have more than anyone in history ever!

## APPLICATION

So, we should see, like David did...

- that God has generously provided all we have...
- and we should respond with generosity.
  - Giving whatever God tells you.

## ILLUSTRATION: TRUCK

And it's actually kind of silly to think that we are the generous ones.

God is the one who owns everything,

- and gives us good gifts of provision...
- and then we bring back a portion to God...
- and we have the audacity to think we're generous.

It would be like if you borrowed my truck,

- and three days later you came to me and were like,
  - “Hey man, I got something for you.”
- I’m like, “What?”
  - “Here’s your truck.”

No, you bring back two trucks and you’re generous! Right?

## TRANSITION

So, this is what David does in response to God’s generosity...

- he becomes generous with both his COMMITMENTS...
- and with his PROVISIONS.

## CONCLUSION **SLIDE W/PADS**

And I wonder what this means for you today?

- Generosity begets generosity.
- Covenant love begets covenant love.
- Hesed leads to hesed.

**Those who have experienced the gospel...become like the gospel.**

Sometimes we read stories like these and try to apply them too quickly.

- We think,
  - *“Well, I should be generous like David.”*
- And listen, you should!

But David didn’t just up-and-decide...

- to become generous...
- because God commanded him.

**He became generous in response to God’s lavish generosity toward him.**

Listen, you'll never become generous like David...

- until you see that you are Mephibosheth.
  - You were God's enemy,
  - helpless,
  - a dead dog,
    - dead in your trespasses and sins,
    - when Christ died for you.
  - While we were enemies,
    - Romans 5 tells us,
  - Christ died for us.

And when you REALLY believe that in your heart...

- in response to that,
- you'll want nothing more than to find your Mephibosheth.

You'll WANT TO seek out...

- a person...
- or a place...
- or a cause...
  - to become radically generous with.

Only the generosity of Christ TOWARD you...

can produce a true spirit of generosity IN you.

In fact, I think we could pretty safely say this:

- The depth of your instinct for generosity...
- is the measure of your understanding of the gospel.
  - The indicator that you've experienced the gospel...
  - is that you start to display the generosity OF the gospel.

So, do some work today my friends.

- Are you generous with others relationally?
  - Are you committed to people?
  - Or are you more transactional in your relationships?
    - Seeking your needs...
    - more than meeting the needs of others?
- And second, are you generous with your provisions?
  - You want to know what you really love? Covenantally?
    - Look at your bank account.

The depth of your instinct for generosity...

IS THE measure of your understanding of the gospel.

- I pray you understand God's lavish generosity towards you,
- and that it leads you to be generous with others.

Let's pray.

## RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – [fathomchurch.org/give](http://fathomchurch.org/give)
- PRAYER - [fathomchurch.org/prayer](http://fathomchurch.org/prayer)
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

### 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Love you church, let’s stand and sing together.

## RESOURCES CONSULTED:

- Davis, Dale Ralph. Focus on the Bible Commentaries. 2 Samuel: Out of Every Adversity.
- Greear, J.D. *Find Your Mephibosheth*.
- Keller, Tim. *Covenant Love*.
- Tsumura, David Toshio. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. The Second Book of Samuel.