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What To Do While the King is in Exile

2 Samuel 9:1-13

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2 Samuel 9:1,5-9,13

2

2 Samuel 9:

1 David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

5 So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel.

9 When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor. David said, "Mephibosheth!"

3

"At your service," he replied.

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."

9 Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?"

4

9 Then the king summoned Ziba, ... "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. And Mephibosheth, ... will always eat at my table."

13 And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king's table; he was lame in both feet.

Theme A: God's grace takes care of our brokenness.

Theme B: The right response to Jesus while we wait for his return.

Acknowledgement of Dr. Alan Redpath, author of "The Making of a Man of God."

Oklahoma Overseer Frank Braddock. Berry Trammel for highlighting the concept of shattered lives.

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King David's Promise

1. David remembered his covenant with Jonathan

2. To be a friend to Jonathan

3. To provide for Jonathan's children

I. King David Shows God's Grace to Mephibosheth

A. At height of his power; kingdom at peace

B. He remembered his covenant

A. To be a friend to Jonathan and 2. to provide for his children.

I Samuel 20:42

B. 2 Sam 9:1 David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

C. So David sent for Mephibosheth “that he might have abundance”

--servants to till the land

--to eat at David’s table continually

Mephibosheth Needed Grace

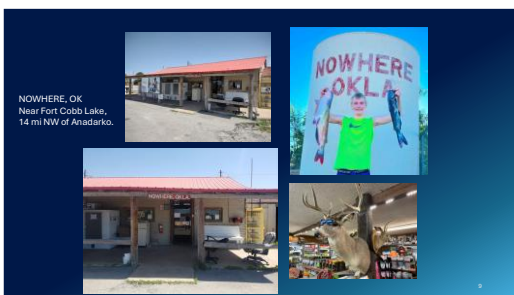
- He was taken Away to Gilead when he was 5 y.o.
- Settled in Lo-debar
 - “place of barrenness,” or “no thing” or “nowhere”

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II. Mephibosheth’s Need of Grace

A. In exile. **Away** in Lo-debar, place of barrenness (Alan Redpath), of desert. In Lo-debar to avoid the purge of Saul’s heirs to the throne following his overthrow by the Philistines. David was anointed king as a youth by Prophet Samuel, and he eventually became King of all the tribes.

Oh, Oklahoma has its own Lo-debar just 80 miles west of here.



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Need for Grace: He was Broken

1. Childhood trauma after King Saul was overthrown
2. Lame from childhood
3. Lost his home
4. Lost his father, grandfather and 2 uncles
5. Lived thinking David wanted to kill him

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B. **Broken**—lame from childhood. Nurse dropped him when Saul and Jonathan were killed. Also childhood trauma at age 5 as Saul and his 3 sons, including Jonathan, died in the conflict against the Philistines.

Need for Grace: He was Fearful

1. M. feared David when Ziba first came to Lodebar to summon him to Jerusalem.
2. At that first meeting, he recognized the King's blessing. He called himself a dead dog.
3. Instead of punishment, he received kindness and grace.

9

C. **Fearful**. M. feared Ziba's message to appear before King David. (Ziba: administrator of Jonathan's estate)

Thought David was going to kill him, the prince of Saul's lineage. Broken, unable to flee alone or fend for himself.

Instead of death, David gave kindness and grace.

David Shows the Goodness of God

1. Don't be afraid.
2. I will show you kindness for your father's sake
3. Your grandfather's land is restored to you.
4. You will always eat at my table.

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David said (v. 7): Don't be **afraid**. (1) I will show you **kindness for your father's sake**. (2) **Restore land**. (3) You will **always eat at my table with my family**.

III. As people, we are

Are you Away from God?

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:13

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1. **Away.** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. *Ephesians 2:13*

Are you Broken?

Physical, Mental, Emotional needs

- Surely he bore our sorrows, and by his stripes we are healed. *Isaiah 53:4*

- Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles. *2 Corinthians 1:3,4*

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2. **Broken.** Healing for brokenness and bruising (physical, mental, emotional) involves surrendering your pain rather than isolating it. Berry Trammel talks about our shattered lives. He's so right. M's ankle wrappings covered a lot of pain that only love over time could heal deeply.

Isaiah 53:4 Surely **he bore our sorrows**, and by his stripes we are healed.

2 Corinthians 1:3, 4: ³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the **Father of compassion and the God of all comfort**, ⁴ **who comforts us in all our troubles**

Are you Fearful?

- Look to Jesus on his cross!
- He is our cornerstone, our sure foundation.
- He fills us with his Spirit of truth, comfort and authority.

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3. **Fearful/afraid.** We don't need to feel threatened by anything because of the cross of Jesus. Anger, hurt, fear, weakness all combine to make the natural man distrust the message of Christ and his gospel. He is our cornerstone, a sure foundation, the one we can trust, who brings us hope and fills us with his Holy Spirit of truth and comfort and authority.

Isaiah 41:10, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. **I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.**"

But the story is not the story of our distrust. It is of Christ and his love seeking us to live in his home forever and to enjoy his fellowship.

Mephibosheth's Response to Grace

- He identified with the king in exile.
- Did not change his ankle dressings, trim his beard, or wash his clothes.
- Did not care that Ziba lied against him.
- Abandoned his wealth to be in the presence of the King David.

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IV. Mephibosheth's Response to Grace

A. King David in exile. M. **identified** with him (That's My King) by **abstaining** from changing his dirty ankle wrappings, cutting his beard, or washing his clothes.

B. Lies and More Lies! Ziba, the manager of Mephibosheth's property, lied to David upon his return to the throne saying M. stayed back so he could have a shot at being king. David gave away some of M's goods to the liar Ziba.

C. When M. first saw David, he abandoned his wealth for the opportunity to be in his presence.

[26](#)He said, "My lord the king, since I your servant am lame, I said, 'I will have my donkey saddled and will ride on it, so I can go with the king.' But Ziba my servant betrayed me. [27](#)And he has slandered your servant to my lord the king. My lord the king is like an angel of God; so do whatever you wish. [28](#)All my grandfather's descendants deserved nothing but death from my lord the king, but you gave your servant a place among those who eat at your table. So what right do I have to make any more appeals to the king?" [30](#)Mephibosheth said to the king, "Let him take everything, now that my lord the king has returned home safely."

M's response to David's grace was Identifying with him during the exile by abstaining from any sign of wealth or comfort while praying for his King's safe return.

Our Response to God's Grace

- Identify with Christ.
- Abstain from the world.
- Abandon our claim to comfort until the King returns.

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V. Our response to God's Grace

1. Identify with Christ in exile by abstaining from the world.

We must honor Christ and his suffering. David fled the rebellion that threatened his position. Jesus faced it! He encountered spiritual wickedness in high places: the rabbinic organization, the politics of Pilate and Herod, even the betrayal of Judas and the abandonment by his own disciples. Later, all would suffer persecution; some died as martyrs. Example: Peter crucified upside down because he was not worth to be crucified in the manner of Jesus.

2. Pray for the kingdom of your heart until the King returns.

Our longing is for Him to return and reestablish his Kingdom, NOT heaping to ourselves riches and comfort. We are looking for Jesus, not for events.

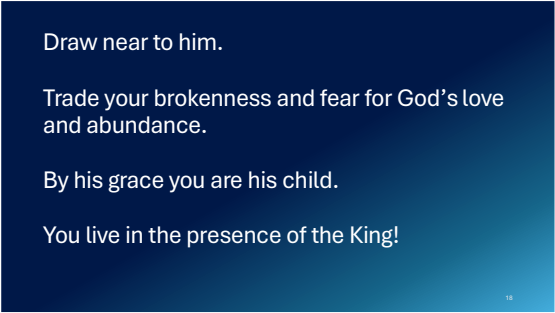
Until then, we long to see his face (Oh, I want to see Him, look upon His face,

There to sing forever of His saving grace; On the streets of Glory let me lift my voice; Cares all past, home at last, ever to rejoice.)

AND we yearn for the presence of his Holy Spirit in our personal prayer times, in our worship, at his table in the bread and cup as we remember him.

As our eyes search the clouds, we listen for the trumpet call and look to see him returning as King of Kings. We'll sing, All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall. Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.

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Draw near to him.

Trade your brokenness and fear for God's love and abundance.

By his grace you are his child.

You live in the presence of the King!

Call on Jesus now. Trade your brokenness and fear for God's love and abundance.

By his grace you are his child.

You live in the presence of the King!