

Attention:

People often talk about their dreams but are never motivated to act because of one failure from their past. There is a recurring thought, if I try again, I will probably fail again, so defeat and ridicule are the fate of their destiny. Failure has become so engrained, when someone offers help, they feel that strings are attached, or a debt will incur. The good news is, God always has a remnant of genuine people, and He has paid your debt in advance.

Need:

When you feel that you have blown your life, or maybe you feel that there is not much purpose in your life, then something changes. Have you ever been on a broken road to nowhere, and all of a sudden, the grace of God appears in a remarkable way? God uses those who are useless and who seem inadequate to the world to be a voice for His glory and return. The Bible says, “God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty” (1 Corinthians 1:27, NKJV). The Lord will restore you, regardless how long you have been gone, or despite how deep your wounds are. Jesus Christ brings life to those who are willing to respond to His call. Avoid feeling that you have gone so far for God’s power to reach you. God’s grace is impartial. It is not about your ability but more about your willingness.

Background:

The book of Samuel (1 & 2) is believed to have been the thoughts of the prophet Samuel, and much was written by him. The purpose of the writing is to show the sovereignty of God in Israel’s history. At this point in 2 Samuel, David has been king for several years, and he wanted to show kindness on behalf of his covenant that he made with his friend Jonathan. The king sends for someone of the house of King Saul, and he blessed Mephibosheth, who was lame in his feet. He felt undeserving of the king’s grace and he considered himself a dead dog, incapable, not fit for favor. David blessed him beyond his condition.

At this time, King David had all power and was at the top of his dynasty; in human eyes, he was on top of the world. Israel was a force to be reckoned with. David decides to bless and show mercy to the family of his enemy, King Saul. It was told to him that there was a man of Saul’s family named Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, but he was living in Lo-Debar. Lo-Debar was a place of misfortune, those without opportunity. Lo-Debar means nothingness or without pasture. Mephibosheth was considered a failure, a waste of life because he was damaged.

Some people are living in conditions where they are not part of God’s family. In other words, they are out of fellowship with the finer things that align with God’s plan. Some even think that they do not need to go to church to serve God. The biblical response to this is they are in direct disobedience to God’s Word. People patronize what they enjoy. They will go to Home Depot, Walmart hair salons, and neglect the house of God. If every Christian had this attitude, the church would dissolve and the world would rejoice. Many have been damaged, and they feel that they cannot recover. Families have dissolved due to sin. From a broken situation, some have settled in Lo-Debar. This is a place where people never recover. It is a place where the damaged live forever. In Lo-Debar, live the unforgiving and the failures, who regret life, even being born.

We are in a broken world that has been damaged by sin. God the Father sent His Only Begotten Son in to the world that all might be saved. The Bible says, “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world” (1 John 2:2, NKJV). It took grace and mercy for Christ to go to the cross and take on death and the grave. Jesus, raised in Nazareth, was labeled a failure, simply, the son of Joseph the carpenter. Nathaniel even asked, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth” (John 1:46)?

In John 5, Jesus goes to a place called Bethesda, and there laid a man who had been lame for 38 years. He located himself around a pool, in hopes that he would get his healing. His true deliverance came from a meeting with Jesus. He congregated among broken people too, thinking he would be delivered. Too many people are sleeping with the devil, but it is time to come out of Lo-Debar and be delivered and set free.

Outline: 2 Samuel 9:3:8

1. Feeling Unnecessary (v. 3-4).

- a. The house of Machir was a place of obscurity and insignificance (for the wounded).
 - i. Mephibosheth could not walk because he was dropped (when he was 5 (2 Sam. 4:4).
 - ii. Lo-debar meant no word or no thing; no pasture; nothingness; a place of the forgotten.
 - iii. Lo-debar is a picture of how God's grace can still reach to the fallen (from grace).
- b. Some people just need a Word.
 - i. Grace is giving you something that you do not deserve.
 - ii. *"And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work."* (Romans 11:6).
- c. It can be years, months, days, or now, of crisis, but Christ has a ram in the thicket.
- d. God's kindness is extended to all who will come to Him.
- e. When you feel stuck believe and trust that God is working it out.
 - i. *"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings as eagles; They shall run, and not be weary; And they shall walk, and not faint."* (Isaiah 40:31, KJV).

2. The Power of Opportunity Knocks (v. 5-6).

- a. King David remembered his covenant with Jonathan and sent for Mephibosheth.
- b. Some people run from their sins rather than confessing their need for grace.
- c. No matter how far you have wandered, God's grace freely forgives.
 - i. *"Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me."* (Psalm 139:7-10, NKJV)
- d. Grace doesn't insist on being right; seeks to make things right (Eph. 4:3).
 - i. *"Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."* (Ephesians 4:3).
- e. Learn to walk in God's presence.

3. Capitalize On God's Promises (v. 7-8).

- a. Mephibosheth saw himself as a 'dead dog,' but David saw him as a promise in the covenant.
 - i. *"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."* (John 8:36, KJV).
- b. Do not live on the bondages that people set on you.
 - i. A lion was placed in captivity of a failing zoo. He was locked up for so many years that the lion lost his roar. When he came into new ownership, his roar came back.
- c. When you experience the love of Jesus, you will get a second wind, a new look at life.
- d. Focus on ways to show people kindness with no strings attached.