

Well Happy Father's Day Fellowship! My name is Adam Watson and I am the young adult's director here at Fellowship. Where are my young adults at? It is a joy to be with you this morning!

- Thinking of my Father, I can't help but think of storyteller. How many of you have ever told a bedtime story before? Maybe you told a bible story, a hero of the faith. You probably told a story of Moses, Abraham, Noah... Maybe even little Zacchaeus 'a wee little man was he' But unfortunately due to an unmarketable name, I bet none of your kids are running up saying daddy, mommy, please tell the story about ... Mephibosheth.
- Intro Mephibosheth and where we are headed... and part of his testimony to us 3,000 years later was that he was Lame.
- So then, what does it mean to be Lame???? Lame Dad Jokes?
- Lame – unable, unconvincingly feeble, weak, and broken. The chaos of life leaves us broken, feeble, and lame. AS pastor Gary says we all have disabilities it's just that some are more visible than others.

The chaos of life our broken world, politics, natural disasters, Diseases

1. [911 Twin Towers Pic](#)
2. [Tsunami Pic](#)
3. [Sandy Hook School shooting](#)

Chaos in my own life.... Adam's Cancer Story

4. [My awkward family photo an X-ray pic](#)
5. [Adam Thumbs up pic in Bed](#)
6. [Pic with Dad](#)

Feel the Need

Transition: Life leaves us lame in various ways. Let's look back at Mephibosheth and the how a man who was lame in multiple ways and the grace of God in his life.

When we think of God's grace, all too often we limit His grace to be only about the forgiveness of our sins. In reality our very life itself is grace from God. We were born into original sin, we deserved death, BUT GOD has given us incredible grace through his son Jesus Christ!

SO, who is Mephibosheth? Mephibosheth is the grandson of King Saul, the first human king of Israel. King Saul's oldest son Jonathan is known for incredible bravery and faith. Primarily when we think of Jonathan we think of the incredible friendship he had with David. They even became brother in-laws. David's first wife was the daughter of Saul. David was anointed as King by the prophet Samuel and then Saul out of his jealousy hunted David to kill him so he would not take his throne. Jonathan was the rightful heir to the throne but chose instead to obey God and support the Lord's anointed David.

Now, Jonathan also had a son, Mephibosheth. For a little more background on Mephibosheth let's look back to 2 Samuel 4:4. The meaning Mephibosheth's name cannot be lost in this story.

*In Hebrew the word "bosheth" means "shame." And "Ish" in Hebrew means "man,"
Therefore Ish-Bosheth means "man of shame."*

Can you imagine literally being called a man of shame, a son of shame? Mephibosheth was just a child, five years old, when the news that Saul and Jonathan had died in battle, during the chaos and panic of hearing the news his nurse picked him up and fled, but as she hurried to leave, she dropped him and he became permanently disabled. Most scholars place this next event about 18 years after Mephibosheth is crippled. At this point he has been living over east of the Jordan River for almost 20 years. Isolated and crippled living in a town called Lo-debar. In Hebrew Debar means word or thing. And Lo in the front negates this to mean no-word or quite literally

no-thing. Here is poor Mephibosheth, he is named a man of shame living in a place called nothing, and he is lame in both feet!

At this point we know Saul and Jonathan died, along with Saul's other sons, leaving the lame Mephibosheth alone. Lonely, isolated. This is not just an awkward family photo this is a devastated family. Turn with me to 2 Samuel chapter 9 as we dive into this powerful moment.

2 SAMUEL 9:3 *David asks Ziba, Saul's servant, the question, "Is there no one still alive from the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?"* We are going to see that this story is much more than just a simple example of moral kindness loving your enemies or being kind to your neighbor.

See it was expected of Kings in that day to wipe out all the heirs and the family lines of the previous Kings. Mephibosheth is being summoned by the new King. He is the grandson to the King who has just died. Mephibosheth is thinking he is a dead man! The fear of the last 20 years, the loneliness are realized. For 20 years Mephibosheth had lived in hiding, without purpose in a land called *nothing*. Living up to his name a 'man of shame'. And now living in fear for his life. He is brought to David's presence, the presence of the King. ***This is it, game over.***

Have you had a "*this is it*" moment? Saying I'm done, I'm toast, God where are you?

The diagnosis, Cancer, Divorce, that phone call, that car wreck, that Job loss.

But instead David shows lovingkindness, the mercy, the love, the grace, the character of God!

We must remember David's promise to Jonathan from back in 1 Samuel 20.

1 Samuel 20:14-15 "But show me unfailing kindness like the Lord's kindness as long as I live, so that I may not be killed, and do not ever cut off your kindness from my family—not even when the Lord has cut off every one of David's enemies from the face of the earth."

This was a vow made by David, to not kill Jonathan's family, but David takes this a step further. He goes beyond the vow, he goes beyond mercy, he gives grace abundantly.

The scene is a crippled grandson of the former King. Bowing low before a the king who has the earthly right to kill him.

Let me Read 2 Samuel 9:8 – NIV ***“Mephibosheth bowed down and said, “What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?”*** In fear for his life and in the presence of King David. Mephibosheth saw himself as completely lame, devoid of any self-worth. Describing himself as a ***dead dog***. Mephibosheth was still alive yet felt like he was worthless and dead. He knew his condition. Here we see that being lame can be both a physical condition making him feel devoid of self-worth.

- Once Mephibosheth enjoyed fellowship with his father. And so did the original couple, Adam and Eve, in the of Eden.
- When disaster struck, fear came, and Mephibosheth suffered a fall that crippled him for the rest of his life. And so it was when sin came into the world, humanity suffered a fall which has left us permanently disabled on earth.

Do you know your story? Do you know your need? Where is your story going?

Author Dan Allendar writes in his book “To be known”

“We're in the presence of a good story when the flaw that shatters shalom is also the doorway to redemption... Whether it be our own flaw or the sin of others, God uses the raw material of sin to create the edifice of his redeemed glory.

The point cannot be overemphasized: your plight is also your redemption. The Bible assumes that its stories are also our story... We are Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Their stories are a paradigm of our own. Each of us is called, redeemed, and exiled - again and again.”

“God is not bound by time, nor is our story. We desperately want our situation to be solved. We want resolution. But, God unfolds the plot in His own time. It is in our months or years of waiting that our story comes to maturity. It is over a lifetime of stories that he turns our desire toward Him.”

You might be in the in midst of dead dog days in your life. The tragedy is fresh, the tears have not dried, the pain still permeates. There are still more questions than answers. You might even be here today saying This is it, God at the end, I'm done for. [KNEEL](#)

In fact you might be here today, on Father's day. The picture of your earthly father is the one that has left you feeling lame. I am sorry, I am sorry that your pain and the chaos of this life has left you lame.

Transition: If today was the end of your story and the end of Mephibosheth's it would be quite depressing, but instead of ending in depression, we see an incredible example of grace. Your father in heaven is the king of kings and He is on His throne and He is still Your heavenly Father Loves you and is inviting you into his presence through his son Jesus. Today is not the end of the story. Today is not the end of your story.

Let's read 2 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 will 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."**

Wow! This is not just a rags to riches story... This is a son of shame now being treated as a son of the king... This is isolation to the King's feast... This is an outcast to an authority. This a dead dog brought to life!!

This is the gospel! You are Mephibosheth, I am Mephibosheth! The King of Kings and the Lord of Lords Jesus has given you new life! He has given you grace! He has invited you to the table! His table! The Kings table! Come to the table! Come and receive God's grace!

We are no longer dead dogs! You have been given grace. Act like it.

BE A GRACE GIVER

Charge to invite others to the table

- David, the King, out of unconditional love for his beloved friend Jonathon sought to whom he might extend grace.
- In like manner, God the Father, because of His unconditional acceptance of His one and only son's death on the cross, continues to seek anyone to whom He might extend His grace.
- David did not wallow in UNforgiveness towards Saul and all that He had done to him. He chose to show grace and mercy. Being a grace giver is a choice!
- The King restored the cripple from nothing to a place of fellowship and honor.
- **God our Father**, has done the same for us. He has adopted us. David adopted Mephibosheth into his family.
- This act of grace is part of David's legacy. Luke writes of King David in Acts 13:36 "For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation..."

- It is easy to think of David as King, as Warrior, as a leader. But included in David fulfilling the purpose of God in his own generation was the act of grace that he showed Mephibosheth. The fulfillment of a vow to his best friend Jonathon.
- Fellowship we just celebrated that 478 people have gone through REPURPOSED and are discovering their God-given purpose this year. Mephibosheth was part of David's God-given purpose.

Who is a Mephibosheth in your life? *Whom I can show God's kindness?*

Who can you show grace to?! Who can you invite to your table? Literally.

Not based on anything that they have done but solely because of the grace God has given you.

We cannot give what we have not received. If you have received God's grace you can't help but give it. *Be a grace giver!*

- His adopted son's limp was a constant reminder of God's grace. Yet, Mephibosheth was treated as one of David's sons. The kings table.
- Imagine the scene of what the Kings table looked like. To be in the presence of the King, David, Solomon – the heir apparent, the wisest man in history, Tamar the beautiful, Absalom – driven leader, maybe some of David's mighty men as Joab the mighty warrior, and then there he is Mephibosheth the Lame. He takes more time to get to his seat, slowly. With gratitude. He sits, he rests, and then King David says it's time to eat.
- REMEMBER YOU AND I ARE MEPHIBOSHETH!
- See who God invites to the table is sadly so different than who we invite to the table. David fulfilled his vow to Jonathon and invited the cripple from Lo-debar into His presence. The presence of the King.

As you look around the table though it isn't full, in fact there are lots of empty chairs. I want to encourage and challenge you to take this message of God's incredible grace that everyone experiences lameness, brokenness, but grace overcomes all. So extend it to others.

*We have an eternal hope in God's grace that is worth sharing with the world. The gospel. **Again, we cannot give what we have not received.** So first, have you received God's grace?*

Come to the table – your invited, receive God's grace.

You are invited to the table. We are all made children of God at His table. Mephibosheth had nothing, did nothing, and deserved nothing. He didn't even try to win the Kings favor. All he could do was humbly accept it. Likewise we – sinners without hope and totally undeserving, and in no way worthy of our God's favor – humbly accept it.

Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV

“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.”

There are some of you here today who have been going through the motions of church. Working for God's approval. Maybe you've never bowed low like Mephibosheth. You might have been in church for decades even, but maybe it's time to get over it and surrender. In fact your carrying shame and guilt you were never ever meant to carry. To bow low and receive His amazing grace. this may be your first time in a church.

Receive His GRACE. We cannot give what we have not received Receive God's grace today.

BY GRACE, THROUGH FAITH you have been saved

Our heavenly Father gives incredible grace and care for us. In fact,

Philip Yancey in His Book *What's So Amazing About Grace* writes, "**Grace is shockingly personal.** As Henri Nouwen points out, "God rejoices. Not because the problems of the world have been solved, not because all human pain and suffering have come to an end, not because thousands of people have been converted and are now praising Him for His goodness. **No, God rejoices because one of his children who was lost has been found.**"

Reiterate and close personal Story – Father Dad Bathing ME at 19

1. Pic with Dad

I want to take you back to my own relationship with my father. I am blessed to have a father who rejoices over me. I do not take this blessing for granted. One of the greatest pictures of my father displaying the character of our heavenly father was when at 19 I was like Mephibosheth. I was in a "this is it" moment, I had lost 42 pounds from cancer and surgery. Humbled, lame and broken and I did not have the strength to bath myself. Not because of anything I had done, earned, achieved, in fact I brought nothing but my need. He carried me, he bathed me, he took care of me when I could not... My heavenly Father, God, used my earthly father Dad to wash away my shame, my pain, my worry, and my embarrassment of being lame.

That is what our father in heaven is offering to you today. Do you want to come to His table? To receive His grace given freely through His son Jesus. For Him to remove your shame. To take a dead dog and bring you back to life. He is offering eternal life. Come to the table, lets pray...

Pic with Dad

PRAYER - COME to the table of GRACE

- Invitation to come to the table
- Charge to stand to invite others to the table

SONG - 1 *Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch; like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,

*And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!*

*3 The Lord hath promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.*

*4 When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.*

Our God Reigns
Our god reigns
Our god reigns
Forever your kingdom reigns
Our god reigns
Our god reigns
Forever your kingdom reigns
He reigns, he reigns
He reigns, he reigns
He reigns, he reigns

PRAYER

Chuck Swindoll, Grace Awakening page 63.