

2 Samuel 19:24-30

The Kindness of a Father

(Father's Day 2014)

²⁴ Now Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king. **And he had not cared for his feet, nor trimmed his mustache, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he returned in peace.** ²⁵ So it was, when he had come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said to him, "Why did you not go with me, Mephibosheth?"

²⁶ And he answered, "My lord, O king, my servant deceived me. For your servant said, 'I will saddle a donkey for myself, that I may ride on it and go to the king,' because your servant is lame. ²⁷ And he has slandered your servant to my lord the king, but my lord the king is like the angel of God.

Therefore do what is good in your eyes. ²⁸ For all my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king. Yet you set your servant among those who eat at your own table. Therefore what right have I still to cry out anymore to the king?"

²⁹ So the king said to him, "Why do you speak anymore of your matters? I have said, 'You and Ziba divide the land.'"

³⁰ Then Mephibosheth said to the king, "Rather, let him take it all, inasmuch as my lord the king has come back in peace to his own house."

Well today is Fathers day 2014! Happy Fathers day to all the Dads in attendance.

A)Awesome Men/ brothers – Church where in many ways men lead and set the pace for Following Jesus.

B)Mothers day typically gets a lot more attention in society than fathers day!

1)For instance This years Mothers day – marked the 100th anniversary of Mothers day in America.

C)This year marks the 42nd year of Fathers day celebration – So It took us 58 yrs. after the institution of Mothers day to have a day honoring Dad.

D)**Before Cell phones** - Mothers day: The most calls home of any day of the year!

1)Fathers day the most collect calls home

E)Moms haul in an estimated 8 billion dollars in flowers, candy, diamond tennis bracelets a year

1) Dads? Less than 15% of that.

Yes but Pastor Rob – Your mom is the one who brought you into this world

A)True – but dad is the one who can take you out of this world.

B)I get that (**why Fathers day is down played**) – Most Dads don't like Fuss – "Just cook me a good steak and I am happy right?" (Don't need no fan fare.)

C)Be honest most men (**underscore – MOST Exceptions**) But Most men are a lot less complicated than women!

6 Reasons why men are proud of themselves.

#1 We can go to the bathroom without a support group! {Never understood that}

Out to dinner in a group – one lady – announces I am going to the little girl's room – any of you girls want to join me!

A man would never ever ever – DO THAT!!!!!!

#2 Men can go on a five day trip with one carry on suitcase!

#3 A man can leave a hotel bed unmade - JOB SECURITY!

#4 YOU can NOT invite a man to a party and still be our friends

(Some are actually relieved "woo they didn't invite me)

#5 A man can watch a game with his friend or drive in a car – and even though neither is talking to the other – no one is thinking – he must be mad at me.

#6 A man can show up to a party or event wearing the same SHIRT as another dude – they high five and become life long friends!

Seriously - I was fortunate to grow up with a great Dad! – Especially after saved when I was 10 yrs. old

Even - Prior to that great Dad!

But growing up – my best friend – a guy named Phil – Didn't have a dad.

A)We met in the first grade – (FIGHT) best buddies all through High School and even college. – Even to this day – still close.

B)When I was in Jr. High – Phil was very competitive for my Dad's attention

1)If we were going somewhere – He would race to the car & jump in the front seat – so he could sit by my Dad.

C)It used to bug me – THINK – that is my Dad!!!!

D)Or My Dad would be working on something – Phil would come over – we were going to play ball or something

1)Phil would always – Ask – Hey Tony – Do you need some help?

E)I would be thinking: What are you asking that for – here to play – not work!

1)He so desired and wanted to be around my Dad!

One day it hit me – (Mom) of the Lord – but I realized that Phil sought after my dad's attention so much because he didn't have a dad.

A)Once I realized that – I was good with it – TAKE THE FRONT SEAT

B)Today Phil is a Police officer in Medford Oregon – Great Christian man – and a Great Dad

C)I think my Dad's influence and example – had something to do with that!

D)Well in our story today in our "After God's Heart" series –

1) We are introduced to a young man who lost his Dad and who David became LIKE a father to!

What David did for this young man is a great picture of what God the Father has done for us!

A)Here in Ch 19 – After David's son Absalom rebelled and drove him from the Kingdom - Absalom gets killed in Battle

B)Now God is restoring everything back to David that he lost

C)It is here that David is brought face to face with this younger man that he had helped so many years before.

1)A young man that David became like a Father to!

D)So before we look at what happens here in Chapter 19 – lets jump back to Chapter 9 and see how they first met.

1)David has been King for 15 yrs. – remembers one day Covenant with Jonathan

E)yrs earlier – became king – kindness to Jonathans descendants

1)David wasn't able to fulfill assumption – all dead

Now David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

² And there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?"

He said, "At your service!"

³ Then the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?"

And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan who is lame in his feet."

(In other words – he is not going to be of much use to you. LAME)

⁴ So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Indeed he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar."

⁵ Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar.

⁶ Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, "Mephibosheth?"

And he answered, "Here is your servant!"

⁷ So David said to him, **“Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father’s sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually.”**

⁸ Then he bowed himself, and said, **“What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?”** (I don’t deserve such kindness)

⁹ And the king called to Ziba, Saul’s servant, and said to him, **“I have given to your master’s son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house.**

¹⁰ You therefore, and your sons and your servants, shall work the **land for him**, and you shall bring in *the harvest*, that your master’s son may have food to eat. **But Mephibosheth your master’s son shall eat bread at my table always.”**

Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

¹¹ Then Ziba said to the king, **“According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will your servant do.”**

“As for Mephibosheth,” said the king, “he shall eat at my table like one of the king’s sons.”

¹² Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Micha. And all who dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants of Mephibosheth. ¹³ So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king’s table. And he was lame in both his feet.

Now The 1st mention of Mephibosheth. Is in 2 Samuel 4 where We are told how he came to be LAME IN HIS FEET

A) Mephibosheth was 5 yrs. old when the news came to the Palace that his **father Jonathan and his grandpa King Saul – were killed in Battle.**

B) His **two hero’s in one single moment** – on the same day – Were taken out of his life.

C) Hearing the news that King Saul had died – his nurse had panicked & grabbed Mephibosheth & Ran to hide him

D) Because it was the practice in that time for a new king to seek out any survivors of the **previous dynasty** for the purpose of WIPING them out

1) **All potential rivals were put to death**

E) Somewhere in the commotion – the Nurse stumbles and dropped Mephibosheth and he ended crippled in his feet.

1) THAT IS WHAT YOU CALL A BAD DAY! – All **his dreams** have been shattered – just like that!

Mephibosheth is taken to a place called Lo-Debar – where he has been hiding out for 15 years – now 20 years old

A) So 15 yrs. pass and David is probably thinking about Jonathan and wishing **“I wish I could have fulfilled our Covenant”**

B) So He asks – Are we sure there is no one left of the house of Saul – that I can show kindness to?

C) It is then that he is told about Mephibosheth (Hurry go and get him)

D) Now Mephibosheth is an incredible picture of man in his fallen state!

#1 Crippled because of a fall!

A) So too – because of the Fall of Adam in the garden – it left all of us in a crippled state – unable to walk with God.

B) Adam and God walked together in the cool of the day – **FALL- NO MORE/ SEPARATION**

1) All of us were born in that same condition – separated from God because of our sin –

UNABLE TO WALK WITH HIM!

#1 Crippled because of a fall!

#2 His name means Shameful One

A) A **perfect name for us**– ADAM AND EVE – ate and were **NAKED AND FULL OF SHAME** – GUILT – HID THEMSELVES

B) ALL of us prior to coming to Christ – Battled Guilt and shame because of our sin! – Constant battle.

C) Greg Laurie is right – **We feel guilty because we are guilty!**

1) The Bible declares Romans 3:23 **“All of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”**

D) Sin = to miss the mark – God’s standard of Holiness

1) We missed it – before we even knew what the standard is – we feel it inside, a sense of guilt and shame.

#1 Crippled because of a fall!

#2 His name means: *Shameful One*

#3 His Residence

V.4 Running away from the king and afraid of the king, he lived in *LO DEBAR*

A) *LO DEBAR* = "not a pasture"

B) Some read it as *the place of nothingness* the place of bareness/ dissatisfaction & frustration

B) Again that is man apart from Christ – that is man w/out God – Empty / Barren / No Satisfaction / no purpose

C) Perhaps that is a good description of your life TODAY ! Find yourself in a place of being **barren spiritually** / frustrated w/ your life /

1) Dissatisfied by what is going on or not going on

D) Your life is marked by a sense of meaninglessness / existing from day to day w/ no real purpose or direction !

Now some of you might be thinking – that is not me! Might be some of the other losers in this room –

A) **NOT ME – I HAVE IT GOING ON!**

B) Great Job, drive a nice car, live in a nice house – vacations in exotic places

C) When I was Pastoring the church in Oregon – I actually had a friend who said to me one day – Rob I don't need Jesus

My life is fantastic I have fulfilled all dreams / have all I want / life is great! My life resembles anything but bareness / and emptiness

D) If that is how you feel today - I want you to consider HONESTLY the series of questions I asked him.

How are you when you are alone?

A) It is the end of the day & no one else is around / to sing your praises / how feel?

B) Do you hate to be alone - / **do you hate the silence** / are you uncomfortable when there is no deal to be done / -

1) Because it makes you think about the Loneliness & the emptiness that you feel inside

C) And if you are so Satisfied – why are seeking after more toys every couple of months / more thrills / more adventures / **Could it be not really satisfied?**

D) Howard Hughes (*most miserable man alive*)
Solomon - *all vanity*

See this is the Truth: The Bible tells us that each one of us was made and created to live in a relationship with God!

A) Man is at his highest when living in a relationship with God

B) When that is not happening – **there is a barren place in your soul/heart**

That people, power, pleasures, or possessions is never ever going to be able to fill!

C) If you are honest – you would admit today – That is me! – Despite everything I have.....

1) **There is a sense that something is missing!**

Mephibosheth is an incredible picture of man in his fallen state

#1 Crippled because of a fall! – Unable to walk with God

#2 His name means *Shameful One* - Guilty

#3 His Residence- barren place

#4 He is sought out by a Kind King!

A) Mephibosheth didn't go looking for David – David went looking for Mephibosheth.

B) The same thing is true of us – **Our King - Jesus – sought after us**

C) We see a great picture of this in the gospels – Luke 19 Jesus is going from Galilee to Jerusalem – Road passes by Jericho –

1) Jesus decides to go through – Why? There was a man whom He wanted to meet.

D) Zacheus – wee little man – Climbs a tree – Jesus stops..... **I want to dine with you today.**

E) Why would you eat with a Man like him – Sinner – Jesus responds – **His mission Statement** – “I have come to seek and save the Lost.”

F) That is what Jesus does – You were lost – He was seeking you –

1) His Spirit drawing you – tugging on your heart – (TODAY)

Picture this scene Ch.9 : Mephibosheth is summoned to the Palace! He doesn't know what to expect.

A) For 15 yrs. – he has seen DAVID as someone to fear – **He sees David as an adversary.**

B) He is called to the Palace – he comes into the presence of David – and V.6 falls on his face.

C) BUT he hears words from the King that are the complete opposite of what he was expecting to hear

1) FEAR NOT!

Some of you in this room are reluctant to fully surrender to the Lord because of fear!

A) You live in rebellion or you hold on to areas because you think – **If I surrender completely-** if I bow – He is going to blast me – not bless me.

B) I used to think that way: If I completely surrendered to God he was going to make me marry an ugly girl.

1) Didn't submit my dating life. Finally did – Wow!!!! – Awesome God

C) If I surrender completely to him – he is going to send me to Africa or some other place I really don't want to live to serve him.

1) Vista – Awesome Church – one of the best places in Southern California to live!

D) Here is what I discovered: **if I would simply trust in him with all my heart and lean not on my own understanding in all my ways acknowledge Him He would direct my path – and I would like it!**

I discovered if I would delight myself in the Lord and if I did He would in turn give me the desires of my heart.

A) What that means – as I delighted in Him – He would shape my heart and my desires with his

desires – (If he was calling me to Africa – love for big bugs)

B) I submitted my heart to Jesus and He has done far more **IN MY LIFE - WITH my life & THRU my life** - than I could ever dream.

1) But isn't that what he promises – Ephesians 3:20 “**Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.**”

C) Here is what we discover – we think we know what is best – we are **Asking the Lord for _____ - He says - You have no idea**

1) What I have for you is beyond what you could ask or think – TRUST

D) Mephibosheth comes before David expecting one thing – **gets something completely different.**

#5 Mephibosheth is called to the Kings table because of a Covenant that was made before he was even born.

A) Everything he lost – is restored to him. All his land – servants etc.

B) But David takes it one step further – You Mephibosheth are going to become like one of my sons – Live in my Palace – eat at My Table

Bb) That my friends **is what the Kindness of the Lord looks like** – He restores everything lost in the fall and throws in so much more

C) **Relationship with God restored** – FORGIVEN – SHAME & GUILT REMOVED Righteous position – 1) THIS IS HOW I SEE YOU - RIGHTEOUS – HOLY – (**you don't see yourself that way**) – I SEE YOU IN MY SON!

D) **GIVEN A Purpose** in God's plan of redemption – Jesus says –

1) I am going to use your life to make an eternal impact on others for my kingdom

NOT ONLY THAT – HE THROWS HEAVEN & ETERNITY into the mix

A) Heaven doesn't excite some of you – Long worship service –

B) Ignorance of it! – Paul – Human words not sufficient NOTHING IN OUR VOCAB JUSTIFIES

Bb)– Sick – Awesome – radical – Magnificent – pick a word –

1) Doesn't even come close – How incredible.....

C) But Heaven isn't the end all - Rapture today – 7 yrs. – Jesus comes back we are with Him – earth is restored to Original Beauty

D) We rule and reign 1,000 yrs. – I PICK MAUI – TAHITTI

E) After that – is Eternity {This life is a short walk in the park compared to eternity

All of us in this room are going to spend eternity SOMEWHERE –

A) **WEEPING ... OUTER DARKNESS OR W/ GOD**

B) We have the awesome privilege of spending eternity with God – because of a covenant made before you were even born

C) Jesus on the Cross – established a New Covenant – made a way for us to Know God

1) Live with the assurance of a Future and a Hope

NOTICE - David says 3 times Mephibosheth is going to eat at my table and the third time he says as one of the Kings Sons

A) Not an outcast – not a 2nd class citizen –

Aa) Not a charity case – NO AS ONE OF MY SONS – ACCEPTED – LOVED – EQUAL.

B) Little kids at the dinner table are a sight to behold - **Spinach on their heads –SO CUTE –**

1) Spaghetti all over them – SO CUTE

2) Suddenly there is a fowl odor - what is that - Mess in his pants – SO CUTE

C) Who thinks that way? Only a parent –

1 John 3:1 **“Behold what manner of Love the father has bestowed on us that we should be called his children.”**

A) Behold – Look at and be amazed!!!!!!!!!!!!

B) Amazed at what – that God's love for us is the Love of a perfect father for his IMPERFECT children.

- Loves us unconditionally – (**Come just as you are**)
- Loves us redemptively – (**MADE A WAY**)
- Loves us eternally – (Promise of a bright future)

C) Accepted in the Beloved!

4 Fathers TO BE - Minnesota – back in the days dads were not allowed in the delivery room

A) Four GUYS are in the hospital waiting room A nurse goes up to the first guy and says, **“Congratulations! You're the father of twins.”**

“That's odd,” answers the man. “I work for the Minnesota Twins!”

B) 30 min later nurse comes in and says to the second guy, “Congratulations! You're the father of triplets!”

“That's weird,” he answers “I work for the 3M company!”

C) 15 min after that - nurse tells the third man, **“Congratulations! You're the father of quadruplets!”**

1) **NO WAY - “I work for the Four Seasons hotel!”**

D) The last man starts groaning and banging his head against the wall. **“What's wrong?”** the others ask -

“I work for 7 Up!”

Hey, GOD THE FATHER never feels that way about those who want to be his Kids -

The More the merrier

A) The Bible says – He knew you before you were conceived and loved you and hoped that you would love him in return

B) He invites you to the table.

C) Picture the scene of David's table – Everyone is present – dinner is being served – one place is empty

1) Hear the dragging sound –

D) Mephibosheth takes his place – at the table.

Here is what is interesting about the table

A) The table is the perfect instrument for hiding crippled feet!

B) Sitting at the table we all look the same –

C) Look under the table – Guess what all crippled

1) Bunch of broken vessels - SPURGEON / MOODY / CHUCK SMITH / BILLY GRAHAM.

I wonder how often as they sat at the table that David said – Mephibosheth let me tell you about your Dad

A) I wonder if David ever said: You are dismissed – **but Mephibosheth stay a while I want to tell you about YOUR DAD**

B) MEPHIBOSHETH was invited to the table because of His Dad!

1) We are invited to God's table because of Jesus!

C) It IS HARD FOR A LOT OF CHRISTIANS TO RECEIVE THAT KIND OF LOVE

1) Accepted because of Jesus

D) **REALLY HARD FOR UNBELIEVERS**

1) Something in all of us – that wants to feel like we did something to earn it

E) Why, the Bible calls it Grace – getting what you don't deserve!

JESUS SAID THE KINGDOM IS LIKE A KING THROWING A GREAT FEAST

A) Those invited made excuses why they could not come

B) Sent servants into the **Highways and Byways** – to gather those who were lame and crippled and outcast

C) YOU TODAY? – Invitation for you to today – Place at the table.

Back to Ch.19 – Quickly rap this up

When Absalom – revolted and took over the kingdom – David fled and everyone who was

loyal to David – goes with him except Mephibosheth.

A) Reason Ch. 16 was Ziba his servant left him – seeing this as a good opportunity to get on David's good side.

B) He comes to David with Donkeys and provision and when David asked him where Mephibosheth was –

1) Ziba said he stayed behind thinking this was his opportunity to assume the Throne.

C) That ticked David off – David says to Ziba – all that he has – I am giving it to you – for showing me kindness.

D) So here in Chapter 19 Mephibosheth shows up

Mephibosheth looks horrible – he hasn't washed his feet, clothes or shaved the entire time David has been gone.

A) **He looks like he has been in mourning**

B) David says Why didn't you come with me? – Mephibosheth tells him my servant tricked me -

C) David realizes his mistake and says – I gave everything to Ziba – but I will Divide it between you

Mephibosheth says: - I don't want any of that – All I want is you!

A) David you are all that I want – You are all that I need.

B) Mephibosheth shows **incredible maturity and sense of perspective** –

1) The best thing about being one of the kings sons was not – perks, blessings and privileges

C) The best thing about being one who sat at the kings table was David.

D) It is an awesome Day in the life of a believer when **he/she finally realizes that the best part of being a Christian is not** – perks – promises – blessings

1) The best thing is BEING WITH JESUS – John 17:3

D) Everything we are looking for is found in HIM!

Direction – Light the way – I am the Light of the world

Hungry – I am the bread of life

Today as we close: Opportunity to Finally surrender – Lord I get it – letting go – trust you – follow you

Mephibosheth Bowed – **You bow – Jesus will say Fear Not**

Father's Day: Receive the invitation to live at the fathers Table

- A teen – Finally get it
- A dad – Done trying to do it your way
- A person – Man/woman – Don't like fathers day – reminder – no dad – lousy dad

**Father God is calling to you today – TO COME
Let him be a father to you**

SURRENDER YOUR HEART – tell Him – ready to follow - YOUR WAY -

YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED