

Invited to the King's Table
2 Samuel 9
Life of David Series
(David: After God's Own Heart)

The Passage before us this morning is one of my favorite passages to preach on

A)because it presents a beautiful picture of the Gospel

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."

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?"

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.

At this point in the Reign of King David – things are Going really good.

A)David is thinking one day about his friend Jonathan who has been dead for a while now

B)Thinking about the Covenant he made with Jonathan to preserve and bless his family –

1)He wonders – Is there anyone in the house of Jonathan that is still around that I can bless.

C)Someone says – there is a guy named Ziba who used to be a servant of Saul –

1)he would probably know – David says call for him to Come.

So Ziba comes before King David and David asked him the question - 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."

A)Now what Ziba is saying to David – yes there is Mephibosheth.

B)But he would be of no use to you – because he is lame in his feet.

C)It is unfortunate but that was the common thought at that time –

1)People with a Physical handicap were not useful

D)I love David's response – that doesn't matter to me – Bring him to me

1)That I might show kindness to him for Jonathan's sake

Now The 1st mention of Mephibosheth. Is in 2 Sam. 4 where we are told how he came to be *lame in his feet*

A)Let me share with you what happened ‘

B)After the death of Saul – the tribes down in Judah made David their King

C)But the Rest of Israel showed allegiance to Saul's son Ishbosheth – puppet king for General Abner

The rule of Ishbosheth collapses when Abner is killed

A)Mephibosheth - Jonathan's son was 5 yrs old

B)When Mephibosheth Nurse heard that Abner was killed she panicked & grabbed Mephibosheth

1)She Ran thinking if David found him he was dead .

C)Because It was the practice in that time for a new king to seek out any survivors

1)of the previous dynasty for the purpose of WIPING them out

D)All potential rivals were put to death- the way of the world in that day

E)So the Nurse was AFRAID of the King and she took Mephibosheth to flee from the king.....

1)Mephibosheth fell, perhaps injuring his spinal column - Resulting in him being lame

Mephibosheth is a striking illustration of lost man

A)NOTE several ways: 1st He could not walk because of a fall/

B)THAT is us. We can NOT walk right because of a fall.

BB)We couldn't walk with God because of THE FALL.

C)Adam and God walked together – until after the fall – Wall of Separation

1)Intimacy w/ God was broken – Ability to live a righteous life – Impossible

2nd The name Mephibosheth means *Shameful One*

A)Adam and Eve ate – Naked and ashamed!

B)Sin does it brings Shame and guilt upon us

C)Feel guilty because we are guilty

3rd Comparison is found in Where Mephibosheth was residing!!

A)V.4 Running away from the king and afraid of the king, he lived in *LODEBAR*

B)*LODEBAR* = “not a pasture” Some read it as *the place of nothingness*

1)the place of bareness/ dissatisfaction & frustration

C)Again that is man apart from Christ – that is man w/ out God –

1)Empty // Barren / No Satisfaction / no purpose

D)Perhaps that is a good description of your life TODAY !

1)Find yourself in a place of being barren spiritually / frustrated w/ your life / Dissatisfied w/ where U R at

You might have moments of peace of pleasure of satisfaction –

A)But it is always fleeting – never lasting satisfaction

B)So you are always chasing something – chasing for more – anything to bring that lasting satisfaction

1)That is life without Christ –

C)Only Jesus fills the Longing of the Soul

So Mephibosheth is a clear picture of life w/out Christ

A)LAME in our feet...SHAMEFUL.....Residing in the place of NOTHINGNESS / afraid of our King and running from our King

B)But also want to NOTE: In our text, David is seeking Mephibosheth

C)David is inviting Mephibosheth to come and down at his table – to live in his house

In a Similar way Jesus seeks out lost sinners

A)Beautiful illustration of that in Luke 19 – Jesus is heading from Galilee to Jerusalem

B)The Road from Galilee region to Jerusalem passes by the city of Jericho,

1)meaning you don't go through Jericho

C)But that Day Jesus goes out of his way – to go into Jericho –

1)because he is going to have a Divine appointment with a sinful man

The man's name was *Zaccheus- tax collector – despised – traitor*

A)Sunday school song about Zaccheus the wee little man

B)As people in the city of Jerusalem lined the streets to get a look at Jesus –

Zaccheus was a small dude – couldn't see over the crowd

C)So he climbs up into the sycamore tree. – Jesus sees him and says *Hey, Zaccheus come down because I want to go to your house for dinner"*

D) Well the religious leaders throw a fit – How could Jesus eat with such a notorious sinner as Zaccheus

I love our Lord's response to them:

A) Question? – Who needs a doctor those who are sick or those who are well? – Sick of course!

B) The thing the religious leaders failed to realize in all their self-righteousness and piety is we are all sick

C) We are all sick because of sin. – all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

D) In the same way that Zaccheus was short in stature and couldn't get to Jesus

E) All of us were morally short in Stature and couldn't get to God. – We were Lost and doomed

But here is the Goodnews – Jesus declared in *Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

A) Jesus went out of his way to seek and Save Lost Zaccheus,

B) And He came out of his way – leaving heaven – going to a cross in order to save the LOST –

1) YOU AND ME

²⁰ See! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. Revelation 3:20 CSB

C) Jesus came to provide a way for lost people like us to be saved and enjoy intimate relationship with him.

In Luke 15) Jesus gave a parable about a man who had 100 sheep but lost 1 of them

A) He said: "Shall not that shepherd leave the 99 that are safe and go out and search until he finds that 1 lost sheep? And when he finds him carries him on his shoulders and when he finds his friends he says: 'Rejoice with me because my sheep that was lost is found'."

B) Then He said: "So too, your heavenly Father rejoices when one that was lost is found"

C) This is what makes Christianity different from religion. In religion, you have man seeking God

1) In Christianity you have God seeking lost man

D) Well here we see a Picture of that in David seeking after Mephibosheth

E) You today – lost far from God – Jesus is seeking you today –

1) Come Follow him – relationship with him
Baptism – Go on record – Follow Jesus

But notice how Mephibosheth Comes before David V 6– he is frightened & rightfully so –

A) He knew the customs of the Kings / dead man

NOTE: VERSE 7 *So David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake,*

B) Note that phrase - David showed Mephibosheth kindness for Jonathan's sake

C) Meaning Mephibosheth didn't deserve anything from David –

1) David could have completely ignored him

D) But years before David made a covenant with Mephibosheth's dad Jonathan

1) to take care of his family

There is a parallel here too in the Christian life –

A) God the Father shows us kindness – extends Grace to us - Because of our connection to His Son Jesus

B) We live in the midst of a New Covenant – where our performance is no longer being judged

1) We are excepted because of the performance of Jesus – Who perfectly fulfilled the commands of God.

C) We receive undeserved Blessings because of our connection to Jesus

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, - Ephesians 1:3

Like Mephibosheth was afraid of David - A lot of People are afraid of God

A) They think God is mad at them and wants to destroy them

B) But nothing could be further from the truth –

C) God loves them and wants to rescue them from their lostness

1) Their Shame and their Guilt

John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

D) Man was already condemned / DOOMED / Jesus came to SAVE MAN from that eternal condemnation

1) THAT is exactly the picture set before us in 2 Samuel 9

David did NOT send for Mephibosheth to BLAST him... He sent for Mephibosheth to BLESS him

A) That misunderstanding of God causes us to run FROM God rather than run TO God

B) People think that if God gets a hold of them that all hell is going to break loose

1) But in reality, when God gets a hold of you, all HEAVEN breaks loose

V.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."

David wanted to restore to Mephibosheth his lost inheritance

A) He gave back to him EVERYTHING that the family had ever lost

B) Here we see a picture of how God wants to restore to us all that was lost to us as a result of our father Adam's failure/

1) Adam enjoyed an intimate communion w/ God

C) He gave Adam Dominion over the world and told Adam to enjoy it and take care of it

But Adam, through his disobedience to God.... through his failure....

A) lost the intimate communion & forfeited the world to Satan

B) Whom Jesus said *was a thief who desires to steal, kill and destroy*

But God desires to restore that which was lost through the fall

A) Restored relationship and communion

B) Restored Purpose – Back in the Kingdom of God – role to play in spreading the good news to a lost world

C) And one day when Jesus returns we get to rule and reign with him on planet earth!

Notice also: Mephibosheth becomes a part of the family

A) He is living in the palace eating meals at the King's table like all of his sons.

B) What a contrast: From the land of no pasture to the king's table

1) The king's table was a place of spectacular abundance

C) The king's table was a place of Warmth & Blessing / abundance & Joy

A place of ACCEPTANCE

So too Jesus calls us to HIS table - We too were residents of Lodebar.... the land of no pasture

A) We were like the prodigal son who walked away from his father's table and ended up eating pig slop

B) Food that wasn't fit for human consumption-

C) When he finally comes to his senses – comes home the Father welcomes him back

1) not as a servant but as his son!

D) You today – Prodigal son or daughter – Come home!

As we close today – head toward Communion and Baptisms

A) Notice 3 things about Mephibosheth's response to David's Kindness

B) 1st V.8 He comes Humbly - ⁸Then he bowed himself, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?"

C) The Kindness of David - awoke in Mephibosheth a sense of unworthiness.... *I AM A DEAD DOG*

1) All he could do was HUMBLY receive

D) The invitation to David's table did NOT produce a sense of pride or entitlement /

1) well it is about time – I have been waiting for you to call

E)The complete opposite – I don't deserve this

2nd Mephibosheth chose to live in the grace of the King! ¹³*So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table.*

A)Mephibosheth could have resisted coming to the table – I don't belong there – I am going to stay in my room

B)He Doesn't do that – he ate continually at the Kings table

C)Today we are going to receive Communion – Maybe you have had a rough week –

1)given into your flesh - Wrong attitudes – lashed out

D)I am not worthy to partake of communion – News for you - None of us are!!!

We are not here today because we are worthy – but because the Blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin

A)Confess it – He is faithful and just to forgive you of your sin and all unrighteousness – 1 John 1:9

B)It would have been easy for Mephibosheth to spend the rest of his days

1)trying to prove to David that he belonged

C)But he is not doing that – He is just enjoying the grace and goodness of King David

D)So too we can try to prove to God that we belong – look what I did today Lord

E)He just wants us to live in and enjoy his Grace and mercy.

3rd thing Mephibosheth was forever loyal to David

A)Later in David's reign his son Absalom would rebel & try to take the Kingdom from him

B)David ends up fleeing the city – and all who were loyal to David fled with him –

1)but Mephibosheth gets left behind – lameness

C)David later sees Ziba, Mephibosheth's servant – and he asked where is Mephibosheth and Ziba lies and says –

1)He stayed with Abasalom

David gets really mad and says to Ziba – all the property I gave to Mephibosheth –

A)You and your family can have it.

B)Well later after Abasalom dies and David is restored –

1)He encounters Mephibosheth and asks him – why didn't you come w/ me

C)Mephibosheth says – I had no way to come and Ziba left me –

1)and he lied to you about me so you would give him my land

David is heartbroken when he learns the truth – and he says to Mephibosheth – oh no –

A)I will punish Ziba for his deceit and restore it all back to you./

B)Mephibosheth basically says – That is ok – David – let him keep my land – all that I want is You!

1)WOW – DROP THE MIC –

C)David I don't need any of that – all I want is you

The More that I walk with the Lord – the more I experience Jesus

A)I feel the same way – The Lord has been so good to me – blessed me beyond my wildest expectations

B)But all the Blessings are JUST icing on the Cake in comparison to who you are!

C)The Blessing of Knowing Jesus/ walking with Jesus/ enjoying intimacy with Him at his table.

You today!

A)Know God – walk with God – experience intimacy with God?

B)Purpose in your life

C)Free of shame guilt and sin –

D)Come to the table – Open your heart o Jesus

1)Prodigal come back to Jesus

Humble – Baptism