

“The Riches of Grace”  
2 Samuel 9  
(Preached at Trinity, May 19, 2019)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. For the last several Sunday evenings we've been looking at this episode of David's dealings with Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan.  
We first read of Mephibosheth in passing back in **Chapter 4**.  
**2 Samuel 4:4 NAU** - "Now Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son crippled in his feet. He was five years old when the report of Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened that in her hurry to flee, he fell and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth."
2. David had made a covenant with his friend Jonathan, the son of Saul.  
**1 Samuel 20:15-16 NAU** - "You shall not cut off your lovingkindness from my house forever, not even when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth." <sup>16</sup> So Jonathan made a *covenant* with the house of David, *saying*, "May the LORD require *it* at the hands of David's enemies."
  - A. Everything in this chapter was the result of David's covenant vow to Jonathan. It had been 10-15 years since Jonathan had died and much longer since this covenant had been made, but David had not forgotten his promise to Jonathan. Covenant promises do not have an expiration date.
  - B. He began to enquire:  
**2 Samuel 9:3 NAU** - "Is there not yet anyone of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God?"
3. Three times David uses the word that is a powerful reminder of covenant love and commitment. That word is **רַחֲמִים** - translated here "kindness."  
**2 Samuel 9:1 NAU** - "Is there yet anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"  
**2 Samuel 9:3 NAU** - "Is there not yet anyone of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God?"  
**2 Samuel 9:7 NAU** - "Do not fear, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan"
4. With David's covenant commitment we are reminded that God doesn't forget covenant.  
**Deuteronomy 7:9 NAU** - "Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;"
5. So far we've seen that God's grace is unconditional and undeserved.
  - A. Mephibosheth had suffered a fall that had left him disabled. Over and over he is described as "Crippled in his feet." That was his identity. He had nothing to offer David. He was dwelling far from David, he had no dealings with David and desired no dealings with David. And yet, David sought him out.

- B. We are also suffering from a terrible fall that has left us with a terrible deformity. And yet, God sought us out.
6. Then we saw that David's kindness to Mephibosheth was not due to anything good in Mephibosheth.
- A. It was not because of any worthiness in himself, not because of any debt David owed to Mephibosheth. It wasn't because of a covenant that David made with Mephibosheth. It wasn't because of Mephibosheth. It was because of Jonathan that David showed kindness to Mephibosheth.  
**2 Samuel 9:7 NAU** - "Do not fear, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan"
- B. It is a beautiful picture of Christ as our Mediator. We have been blessed for Christ's sake.  
 We have been blessed for Christ's sake. That's the riches of God's grace.  
**Ephesians 1:6-8 NAU** - "to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup> which He lavished on us."
7. Tonight I want to draw your attention to another aspect of this passage. I want us to set our minds upon the riches of God's grace.
- I. David's kindness to Mephibosheth resulted in wonderful blessings
- A. He was granted the grace to sit at the king's table
1. This is repeated four times  
**2 Samuel 9:7 NAU** - "you shall eat at my table regularly."  
**2 Samuel 9:10 NAU** - "Mephibosheth your master's grandson shall eat at my table regularly."  
**2 Samuel 9:11 NAU** - "So Mephibosheth ate at David's table as one of the king's sons."  
**2 Samuel 9:13 NAU** - "So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate at the king's table regularly"
  2. David was the king. You can only imagine the riches of the bounty of David's table. The king would have been served the finest cuisine in the land—fresh meat unknown to most. Fresh produce, fresh bread, fine wine flowing abundantly.
  3. Our Savior blesses with the rich bounty that flows from His table.  
 C.H. Spurgeon – “Think of the hospitalities of the God of grace each day. Ten thousand thousand of his people are this day sitting down to feast; hungry and thirsty they bring large appetites with them to the banquet, but not one of them returns unsatisfied; there is enough for each, enough for all, enough for evermore. Though the host that feed there is countless as the stars of heaven, yet I find that not one lacks his portion. Think how much grace one saint requires, so much that nothing but the Infinite could supply him for one day.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> C.H. Spurgeon, *Spurgeon's Sermons*, (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1987), 69.

4. Matthew Henry – “Now because David was a type of Christ, his Lord and son, his root and offspring, let his kindness to Mephibosheth serve to illustrate the kindness and love of God our Saviour towards fallen man, which yet he was under no obligation to, as David was to Jonathan. To those of them that humble themselves before him, and commit themselves to him, he restores the forfeited inheritance, he entitles them to a better paradise than that which Adam lost, and takes them into communion with himself, sets them with his children at his table, and feasts them with the dainties of heaven. *Lord, what is man, that thou shouldst thus magnify him!*”<sup>2</sup>
  5. There are endless bounties in knowing Christ, not the least of which is eternal life. We are invited to the eternal feast.  
**Revelation 19:7-9 NAU** - "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." <sup>8</sup> It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."
- B. Mephibosheth was given the blessing of adoption
1. And Mephibosheth did not have a place at the king’s table as a guest. He was seated as one of the king’s sons.  
**2 Samuel 9:11 NAU** - "So Mephibosheth ate at David's table as one of the king's sons."
    - a. We are not given the strict practice of adoption here because the practice wasn’t really known in the Old Testament, but we can see the beautiful principle in this passage.
    - b. When Mephibosheth fell before David naming himself as a servant, David raised him up to the status of a son.
  2. We have been granted the grace of adoption through Jesus Christ  
**Galatians 4:7 NAU** - "herefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God."  
**Ephesians 1:4-6 NAU** - "In love <sup>5</sup> He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved."  
**Galatians 4:4-7 NAU** - "But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, <sup>5</sup> so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup> Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God."

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<sup>2</sup> Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*, (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 452.

3. We read in our Confession (LBC 12:1) – “All those who are justified, God vouchsafed, in and for the sake of His only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption, by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God . . .”

C. The grace of forgiveness

1. Mephibosheth expected death. His grandfather had sought David’s life. This was common knowledge. And Mephibosheth understood that David might perceive him as a threat to the throne. He came before David trembling.  
**2 Samuel 9:6-7 NAU** - "Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and prostrated himself. And David said, "Mephibosheth." And he said, "Here is your servant!" <sup>7</sup> David said to him, "Do not fear"
2. In Christ we have been given the gift of forgiveness. God has cast away all of our offenses.  
**Ephesians 1:7-8 NAU** - "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup> which He lavished on us."
3. The Apostle John writes:  
**1 John 2:12 NAU** - "I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake."
4. This is covenant forgiveness bought through the blood of Christ.  
**Jeremiah 31:33-34 NAU** - "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>34</sup> "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

D. The grace of restoration and reconciliation

1. Saul had been David’s enemy. And then Saul’s son Ishbosheth had opposed David’s reign and sought to usurp the throne. Mephibosheth could not expect well when he was summoned by David.
2. In addition, when Saul and Jonathan were killed Mephibosheth lost everything. For the first five years of his life he was the son of a prince in Israel. He knew the riches of royalty.  
After he fled he was an outcast living in a barren land. He would have been a pauper. The name Lo-debar means “no pasture.” Not only did Mephibosheth lose the family land, he was living in a barren, unfruitful land.
3. David proclaimed his restoration  
**2 Samuel 9:7 NAU** - "I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul"  
**2 Samuel 9:9 NAU** - "Then the king called Saul's servant Ziba and said to him, "All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson."

4. Mephibosheth was relocated from Lo-debar to Jerusalem. He would now live in the city of David, in the heart of David's kingdom.
5. With the fall of Adam came alienation. He was cast out of the Garden and Adam and Eve became outcasts. In Christ we have been restored. We have become heirs with Christ.
6. Jesus Christ has welcomed the lame and outcasts.  
**Micah 4:6 NAU** - "In that day," declares the LORD, "I will assemble the lame And gather the outcasts, Even those whom I have afflicted."

#### Conclusion:

1. This chapter is a beautiful display of God's grace. Mephibosheth was suffering because of the sins of another. Long before he was born the sins of his grandfather shaped his life. But David restored Mephibosheth for the sake of Jonathan.
2. The fall of Mephibosheth left him in a condition that was beyond his ability to repair, but David entered and blessed him beyond his imagination.
3. This is what God had done for us. He has blessed us beyond our imagination. We have been blessed for Christ's sake. That is the riches of God's grace.  
**Ephesians 1:6-8 NAU** - "to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup> which He lavished on us."
4. It is hard for us to accept such grace. It seems too amazing. We want to add to it. But adding to God's grace destroys it.  
Mephibosheth didn't offer to work in the kitchen to earn his place at the table. It was given to him, in spite of who he was.  
**2 Samuel 9:13 NAU** - "So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate at the king's table regularly. Now he was lame in both feet."
5. Can you imagine Mephibosheth telling David he preferred living in Lo-debar—that he cared little for the king and the riches of his bounty.  
That is precisely what sinners do who refuse to receive Christ. Are you one of them?