

How God Saves a Sinner

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June 26, 2016

2 Samuel 9:1-13

As we consider 2 Samuel 9 this morning, this chapter gives us a vivid picture to help us understand how God saves a sinner. This a glorious and beautiful picture of God's salvation for sinners set before us. We must not lose sight of the literally story and narrative set before us. This is a literal narrative which gives great inside to the Doctrine of Soteriology or if you wish the doctrine of salvation. Though this is true story in the annals of history, but it's the spiritual application is what interests me this morning.

2 Samuel 9 also gives us one of the loveliest scenes in the life of David and to appreciate this we need to remember his earlier experiences, in particular the unkind treatment he had received at the hands of King Saul who happens to be Mephibosheth's grandfather. Remember the jealousy that burned in the heart of Saul towards David when he heard the people celebrating David's victory over Goliath. Not only this but also when David had a few military victories over their enemies and the women cried that David had slain 10,000 in comparison to Saul's 1,000. I Samuel 18:7 & 8, *"And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. 8 And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?"* The jealousy and envy of Saul deepened with such hatred which let to King Saul seeking to kill David and at one point he even threw a javelin at David and so David had to finally flee for his life from Saul, as Saul relentlessly pursued him like hunting for an animal in determining to kill David.

But now, in 2 Samuel 9, things have been completely changed, Saul and his sons have died in battle and David has ascended to the throne of Israel. Here in 2 Samuel 9 David displays the most admirable spirit in extending mercy and compassion to his enemy. Instead of using his royal power as a tyrant with a revengeful and malicious deed, he exhibited great Christian character. Instead of rendering evil for evil, getting back at an enemy by being revengeful, he rendered good for evil, he extended pity and mercy to the descendant of his sworn enemy. Usually when a new king came to the throne he would extinguish his enemies and their posterity, not David as a matter of fact he gave to him who deserved judgement and death, forgiveness, mercy yea LIFE! There are 7 things I would like to share with you this morning from this story:

- I. **The Compassion**
- II. **The Covenant**
- III. **The Condition**
- IV. **The Calling**

V. The Coming
VI. The Confession
VII. The Continuing

I. The Compassion. (vs 1)

As we consider our story this morning we see some comparisons, regarding our Lord Jesus Christ and David, in particular, how they extend compassion and mercy to their enemies. As David sat upon his throne and sought out to extend kindness and mercy to an enemy we see a glorious type of our beloved Lord Jesus Christ. King Jesus sits upon His throne in heaven seeking to extend mercy on hell deserving sinners. David showed kindness to an enemy, a foe, a rival against his kingdom. What a glorious type of our Lord Jesus Christ in dealing in grace with sinners. Mephibosheth is a type of all sinners which are enemies of God.

Inclusive in the Doctrine of Soteriology is also the Doctrine of Reconciliation which teaches us that all of us in our lost estate are sworn enemies of God and that God has to reconcile us to Himself. We are born into this world dead in trespasses and sins, as sworn enemies of God. I hope this pops a few self-righteous big heads this morning, because if you think God saves us because we are His friend, His good buddy and that we are good and well pleasing in His sight, you are deceived! I have had people literally tell me that they have always loved God, that from the time they were born, they have loved and followed God and that they have always been a Christian. Well, that might be good for a person's self-esteem, but the Bible teaches other wise.

- Romans 8:7 & 8, clearly states, "*Because the carnal mind is enmity (hostile, at variance with, opposing God) against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*"
- We are born into this world with a carnal mind and in the flesh that cannot please God notice also what Paul says in Col.1:21, "*And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.*"
- God is ever commanding lost, lame and languishing sinners to be reconciled to him. 2 Cor. 5:19 & 20, "*And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and **hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation**; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath **committed unto us the word of reconciliation**. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."*

Thus, Mephibosheth is an enemy, alienated from David. Sinners are lost and alienated from God. Notice again what verse 1 says, "*And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness **for Jonathan's sake**?" If you are lost and outside Christ this morning perhaps you can meditate on this thought, "*Is there yet any that is left of the house of Hillburn Drive Grace Baptist Church that I might show them**

kindness for Christ's sake?"

This act of kindness and compassion is seen in the fact that David took the initiative. Romans 10:20 says, *"...I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me."* No proposal was made to David from Mephibosheth; the king was the one who first made the advance. So it is with God, it is God that makes the first move not the sinner. It is through the means of preaching, through the gospel wherein the proclamation of mercy is made to sinners. God is the initiator and in each instance of salvation, God is found of them that sought Him not. It is the nature of a lost sheep to wander off further and further away. The Shepherd must do the seeking because lost sheep do not go after the shepherd. Ezek.34:11 & 12, *"For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. 12 As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day."* Luke 19:10, *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."* From the beginning of time God has always sought out sinners:

It was God who sought:

- Adam in the garden, Gen.3:8 &9.
- Noah in a wicked society, Gen.6:8
- Abraham in Ur.
- Jacob in Bethel.
- Moses at Midian.
- King Manasseh in the dungeon.
- Samaritan woman at the well.
- Zacchaeus upon the tree.
- Blind Bartimaeus outside Jericho by the roadside begging.
- Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus.
- Joe Maldonado driving in his car and saved him in a school parking lot.

David was the one who sought out Mephibosheth. What profit would David gain in extending mercy to him especially one who descended from David's worst enemy? Well, the gospel is to be proclaimed to all, the gospel of God's grace does not seek those who have something to offer God. The gospel of grace in its unsearchable riches is for the worthless, helpless, wretched, profane, vile, lost and undone sinners. Christ Himself says in Matthew 9:12 & 13, *"But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. 13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."* Christ came into the world to save sinners. He saves them in mercy and by grace, that is, the free grace of God in Romans 3:24, *"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."* Salvation is free, without money or price, without works

or good deeds, I will preach on the free grace of God long before I shall preach on the free will man! Come to Christ this morning for He is a willing and compassionate Savior, who is rich in grace and mercy! Secondly:

II. The Covenant. (vss 2 & 3)

What was the cause and motive that moved David to act in such a way regarding the grandson of his sworn enemy, i.e. to extend mercy to him? Read verses 1 -3, *“And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake? 2 And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant is he. 3 And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.”* Twice in verses 1 & 3 David speaks about extending his kindness to the house of his sworn enemy. Notice carefully that this compassion is based on or for the sake of Jonathan in verse 1. There was nothing in Saul’s grandson, “Mephibosheth,” to move David to show him favor. David’s cause and motive in having compassion and extending kindness to Mephibosheth was solely based on a reason outside of Mephibosheth. The purpose and cause of David’s kindness towards Mephibosheth was because of the friendship and love that existed between David and Jonathan. Mephibosheth obtained kindness at the hands of the king, not because of anything he had done, not because of any personal worthiness he possessed, but wholly and solely on the account of a covenant promise which was made before he was born!

Oh my dear ones this morning in Christ that is those of you who are saved and those who have been saved in years gone by and those yet to be saved. God acts in free and sovereign mercy, not because of any personal worthiness we possess or because of anything we have done or will do, no, but solely upon the love He has for His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. It is based upon the covenant made between the Father in the Son in eternity past, based wholly upon, the everlasting covenant. Hebrews 13:20 & 21, *“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”* Isaiah 55:1 & 3, says, *“Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price...3 Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.”* God’s acts in free and sovereign mercy because of the love He has for His Son, which is the impetus in loving sinners. David extended lovingkindness to Mephibosheth for Jonathan’s sake, because of the covenant that Jonathan and David had made.

Turn with me to 1 Samuel 20:11-17, 41 & 42. David’s love for Jonathan moved him to show kindness towards Mephibosheth. There was nothing in Mephibosheth to receive mercy and kindness from David, except for Jonathan’s sake. How typical of the love of

God the Father towards His only begotten Son, it that, it moved Him to save us because of or for Christ's sake. It was nothing in us, but solely because of the love of God towards His Son, which is the reason God would love any sinner.

> Titus 3:3-6, "*For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. 4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 **NOT** by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour.*"

> It is because of another that God's is merciful to us; it is for Christ's sake. Eph.4:32, "...even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

> 1 John 2:12, "*I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.*" Because of Jesus Christ, God shows us mercy and kindness.

> Reminds me of that blessed verse in Ezek. 16:4-9, "*And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all. 5 None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the lothing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born. 6 And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, **Live: yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live...**8 **Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I sware unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.** 9 Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil."*

≥ SOS 2:16, "*My beloved is mine, and I am his...*"

> We also see part of this covenant or Divine contract between Father and Son in John 17 and John 6. John 17:2, "*As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him (time past).*" John 6:37, "*All that the Father giveth me (time present) shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*"

God showed mercy on us because of Jesus' sake! Will you not come to Him this morning in repentance and faith to experience this mercy and great love?

III. The Condition. (vss. 1-4) A. Our Position in our Lost Estate. B. Our Place in our Lost Estate.

Let us look more closely at the condition of this one whom David showed kindness to. Read verses 1 – 4. Jonathan's son is Mephibosheth and his name means and signifies

a shameful thing. Notice the end of verse 3 *“...Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.”* He was lame on his feet which made him completely helpless, poor and destitute. What a description of Mephibosheth and what a description of all the sons of Adam. We could all be called Mephibosheth, for we all stand before God as a shameful thing, being totally helpless, poor and destitute in our spiritual condition. We are all polluted by sin in our depravity and corruption. Isaiah gives us a vivid description of our condition before God,

- Isa.1:6, *“From the soul of the foot even unto the crown of the head, there is no soundness in us, but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores.”*
- Jeremiah 17:9, *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”*
- Jeremiah 13:23, *“Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.”*
- Isaiah 64:6 & 7 says, *“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. 7 And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.”*

We are all before God as Mephibosheth, a shameful thing, in heart, in mind, in soul, in will, in deed and actions and thereby enemies of God by nature. This was Mephibosheth’s condition before David. Mephibosheth was a fugitive from David, when news reached all the survivors of the family of Saul, that Saul and his sons were killed in battle and that David ascended to the throne they fled as fugitives from David. As they were fleeing from David we see the cause of Mephibosheth’s lame condition which is type of the cause of our lame condition before God. Mephibosheth’s condition happened because of another and in like manner we are in our shameful condition because of another. What caused Mephibosheth feet to be lame? What caused us to be born spiritually lame and dead in trespasses and sin? Because of the actions of another, ADAM!

Notice in 2 Samuel 4:4, *“And Jonathan, Saul’s son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.”* Because of another we are all fallen and lame creatures before God, Romans 5:12, 18 and 19, *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”* (18) *“Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation...”* (19) *“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners...”* Mephibosheth was crippled because of another; likewise we were all spiritually crippled because of another. Romans 5:6 tells us how we are all without strength before God, *“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”*

Not only does Mephibosheth picture our condition before God but also the place where we reside. Before salvation comes to a sinner we all reside in the broad path of destruction. Notice 2 Samuel 9:4 as it tell us where Mephibosheth resided, *“And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.”* Mephibosheth was far away in Lodebar. Lodebar means place of no pasture or place of no bread. He was far from the king, far from Jerusalem, far away from the place of peace, far from the place of blessing and far from the place of worship. The word Machir means sold, and we are far away from God sold under sin in a place of no bread! Paul says in Romans 8:7, *“For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.”*

How many are here this morning in Lodebar far from God? You might be here in church this morning but spiritually you reside in Lodebar. You are in a far country and you don't even know it. You live solely for this world, far away from God, separated in a world of vast wilderness which provides no food or blessing for your soul. Great masses of people are seeking satisfaction in things that will not and does not satisfy the soul but leaves them empty to eat nothing but husks, like the prodigal son in Luke 15:16, *“And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.”*

Vast multitudes seeking pleasures in things that will not and does not satisfy, seeking satisfaction in money, power, prestige, drugs, sex, gangs, personal accomplishments in, Facebook and social media and anything else that the world offers. The ideology of the world is simple, eat, drink and be merry. If you are outside Christ this morning you are far away from God, you are far from Christ, you are dead spiritually and in a vast wilderness in a desert place called Lodebar and you don't even know it. You are again like the prodigal son in a far country, Luke 15:13-15, *“And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. 14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. 15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.”* You are joined to the citizens of that far country, Lodebar. Psalms 68:6 says, *“God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.”*

May God grace you and bring you, yea birth you into His kingdom, the KINGDOM of God whose capital is the heavenly Jerusalem! Wherein is much bread and heavenly manna to filled your soul on a daily bases. Come to the King of heavenly Jerusalem, Jesus Christ, who is a merciful and kind savior. You will always have bread and manna to fill your soul. Leave the barren land of Lodebar for the blessings of constant feeding in Jerusalem. This brings us to fourth point:

IV. The Calling. (vs 5)

Now, we will see how Mephibosheth got to Jerusalem. Verse 5 clearly shows us how Mephibosheth got to the place David was. “Then king David sent, and **fetches him** out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.” The king extends mercy to this poor cripple lamed in both feet and dwelling in a place of no pasture and no blessing. The king sits upon his throne with purpose of heart to show kindness to an enemy who deserved death, but instead, receives mercy because of the sake of another. David acted in such a powerful way by calling for Mephibosheth to come to him. Again what a glorious picture of how God saves a sinner, this is a type of the effectual call of God upon a sinner. David **fetches** for Mephibosheth and in like manner God fetches sinners! I love the term **'fetching grace!'**

How did David get Mephibosheth to come to Jerusalem? Perhaps, he sent a message to Mephibosheth, “Hey Meph, if you meet me half way to Jerusalem I’ll meet you there, that is, if Mephibosheth would do his part David would do his part. Or David perhaps begged Mephibosheth, please come, come up to Jerusalem; I’ve done everything I can, will you please allow and let me bring you to Jerusalem. I mean Mephibosheth, if you make a decision and exercise your free will and just walk down the Jerusalem road of salvation, I can really help you. David offered Mephibosheth a Jerusalem road plan of salvation, as in our day many offer sinners a Romans road plan of salvation. I’ll tell you what Mephibosheth, I’ll just send a couple of crutches to Lodebar and you can hobble your way to Jerusalem. We laugh at these things and say how foolish and ridiculous, but how sad that some preachers of our day really say and do some of these things with all kinds gimmicks and methodologies. So how was David able to bring Mephibosheth to Jerusalem? “Then king David sent, and **fetches him** out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.” David **FETCHED** him out of Lodebar and brought him to Jerusalem! Yes it was **FETCHING GRACE** that brought Mephibosheth to David. It was **EFFECTUAL** that called him out of Lodebar. This is what God does for sinners; by the **OMNIPOTENT POWER** of the Holy Spirit, He fetches sinners out of the world and brings them effectually to Christ. God fetches sinners by His omnipotent power! God calls sinners with effectual power. Thus this leads us to point number 6:

V. The Coming (vs 6)

2 Samuel 9:6, “Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, **was come unto David**, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant!” God’s effectual drawing always brings the sinner to Himself. Just as David fetch Mephibosheth with his royal power and effectually brought him to Jerusalem, in like manner God effectually calls, yea draws a sinner to Himself. Notice it says; “when Mephibosheth...was come unto David.” This show’s the power of David drawing Mephibosheth to come to him, it was effectual. From beginning to end salvation is of the LORD. He draws us, He saves us and yea, He keeps us until we go to Him in glory.

This is power. This is why we proclaim that God does much more than to make salvation possible, no, our Great God procures the salvation of His people. The same power that raised Lazarus from the grave raises a dead sinner from a spiritual grave. Notice the power exhibited when our Lord called out Lazarus from the grave in John 11:43 & 44, “*And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. 44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.*” No, Christ didn’t meet Lazarus half way out of the grave or got Lazarus down some Baptist aisle, no but effectually, Christ said, Lazarus COME FORTH and Lazarus CAME to him out of the grave.

There is an effectual calling and then there is an effectual coming! As Mephibosheth effectually came to David, in like manner sinners effectually come to Christ when drawn by the Holy Spirit. The same power that God in creation said let there light is the same power in giving light to a dark soul, “*For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*” 2 Cor. 4:6. This is why Christ says so powerfully, “*All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*” John 6:37. In John 6:65 & 44, “*And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. (44) No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*”

God with effectual power draws a sinner irresistibly to Himself. David as KING drew to himself Mephibosheth with effectual power! God fetches the sinner with the power of the Holy Spirit, David in like manner fetch Mephibosheth with Ziba as a type of the Holy Spirit to himself in Jerusalem. 2 Samuel 9:4 - 6, “*And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar. 5 Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar. 6 Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant!*” This is what God does for poor lost sinners He fetches them from the worldly Lodebar to Himself! Where are you this morning? Are you in Lodebar? Throw your self at the mercy of God this morning. This is why you must look away from yourself and look only and solely to God for salvation. There is nothing of your good works or religious deeds that you can bring to God, to cause Him to accept you, no you must be accepted only in the beloved Jesus Christ. Eph.1:6 & 7, tells us, “*To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. 7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.*” As Augustus Toplady would say in his hymn “Rock of Ages,” gloriously:

Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law’s demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,

Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

Yes, when God effectually calls a sinner he will effectually come, which brings us to the 6th point.

VI. The Confession. (vss 6-8)

2 Samuel 9:6-8, *“Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant! 7 And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually. 8 And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?”* When there is an effectual calling and an effectual coming there will also be an effectual confession which leads to an effectual conversion. Let me just say at this point that here is a general call and effectual call. The general call is when the gospel is preached. The effectual call is when the Holy Spirit causes the Word of God to be quickened to the heart of a sinner which causes the sinner to effectually hear the call and that sinner will call out to God in repentance and faith for salvation. Notice what happens when Mephibosheth is brought before David:

- He fell on his face.
- He did reverence.
- He became a servant, a willing bond slave.
- He was fearful.
- He bowed himself.
- He confessed his unworthiness.

How different in our modern churches when sinners are bid to come to a supposed “Saving Altar” in the front of the church. Then you have some (not all) that come down the aisle some laughing, some joking or some chewing gum and others because everyone else is going. Some come prancing down the aisle to some fancy evangelist’s cattle call to make some decision to follow Jesus. In some churches where

they have celebrities or sports figures, some go down the aisle just to get a closer look at some movie queen or Hollywood star or sports figure who has “so called” found Jesus. Many come to hear some sports star or a famous coach. But, very few come for the primary reason, which is, their sins; and seeking salvation from their sins, not so much coming to be saved from hell, but to be saved from their sins. Matthew 1:21, *“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”*

How did Mephibosheth approach the king? Mephibosheth knew that his life hung upon the mercy of the king. Notice again how Mephibosheth came to King David. He fell on his face and made reverence to David. Mephibosheth understood that he was in the presence of the KING, that he answered, “Behold, thy servant!” Many look to Jesus as some fire escape from hell instead of seeking to be saved from their sins. They need to acknowledge that HE IS LORD! HE IS KING! HE IS SOVEREIGN! HE IS THE ONLY SAVIOR OF SINNERS! What attitude of body and heart by Mephibosheth who was fetched by David the king! He falls down before David acknowledging His KINGSHIP or you wish his LORDSHIP! LORDSHIP, yes, because that is the only kind of salvation! Yes, when God fetches a sinner, it is a LORDSHIP salvation. All regenerated sinners bow the knee and confess the tongue that Jesus Christ is LORD! Phil.2:10 & 11, *“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

As David calmed the fear of Mephibosheth, God in like manner calms the fear in our hearts as when approach Him. Reminds me of the second stanza of Amazing Grace: *“’Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear. And Grace, my fears relieved. How precious did that Grace appear...the hour I first believed.”*

Coming to Christ always calms the hearts of a sinner it soothes the soul with great peace and love. As Mephibosheth bows down before King David, he knows that he deserves the wrath of the king. He doesn't give David excuses or reasons why David should accept him, no, he willfully and carefully tells David with a bowed knee and a bowed heart, *“...What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?”* He calls himself a dog, no, a dead dog. Sad how some preachers are more concern about a person's self-esteem and will not even use the word sin or sinners in their sermons. I can assure you, God is not concern about your self-esteem, but in you confessing your sinful condition.

- Jer.3:13, *“Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God...”*
- David in Psalms 51:3 says, *“For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.”*
- Psalms 32:5, says, *“I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I*

said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah."

How about you are you willing to confess and forsake you sins this morning? Proverbs 28:13, *"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."* Are you willing to confess that you are a dead sinner before God? 1 John 1:9 says, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* Mephibosheth clearly acknowledge his condition before David and confessed it before him, saying, "King David, I am nothing but a dead dog before you." But David calms his heart and floods his soul with unspeakable peace immersed in great mercy, compassion and love. This is what God does for hell deserving sinners, God removes our fears and imparts a peace which surpasses all understanding and floods our hearts with unbelievable forgiveness, mercy and love! Yes, this poor helpless and needy sinner was brought before the king. He made no excuses for his condition and just confessed it before David. Mephibosheth was brought from Lodebar, the place of no pasture and no bread, to Jerusalem, the city of peace which was full of heavenly bread!

How about you have you ever fallen down before the Thrice Holy God of heaven and earth? Have you ever taken your place as a vile and wretched sinner before God or are you constantly making excuse after excuse, blaming everyone else and pointing at everyone else? What sin keeps you from Christ? For what sin are willing to spend an eternity in hell? Or do you keep saying one day Lord, one day Lord I'll bow and give you my heart. Dear sinner friend, have you ever taken your place before God in the dust. Have you ever seen your self a sinner? Oh I implore you, throw down you arms of rebellion against God! Take sides with God against yourself! Bow down the knee to Christ and confess Him as your Lord and Savior? Come like Mephibosheth and fall down before God and confess your heart before Him. I entreat you this morning come to Christ! Again, Jesus Christ says with great compassion and mercy, *"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."* John 6:37 Isaiah 45:22, *"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else."* Come to Christ this morning so that all your sins will be blotted out and forgiven! Come like the hymn says:

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee -
O Lamb of God, I come.

Come ye weary, heavy laden,
Lost and ruined by the fall.
If you tarry till you're better,
You will never come at all.

Quickly and lastly:

VII. The Continuing. (vss 9-13)

“Then the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said unto him, I have given unto thy master's son all that pertained to Saul and to all his house. 10 Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in the fruits, that thy master's son may have food to eat: but Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread alway at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. 11 Then said Ziba unto the king, According to all that my lord the king hath commanded his servant, so shall thy servant do. As for Mephibosheth, said the king, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons. 12 And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Micha. And all that dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants unto Mephibosheth. 13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet.” When God effectually saves a sinner, the saved sinner shall continue to be with God. In other words, the saved sinner is now a saint that shall persevere because God will preserve him. As Mephibosheth dwelt and ate at the king's table continually, in like manner, all those whom God saves, will continue at King Jesus' table and shall eat continually from the heavenly manna, that is, THE WORD OF GOD. He shall no longer dwell in Lodebar but now are in the Kingdom of God the Heavenly Jerusalem,

- Ps.23:5 & 6, *“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.”*
- Luke 22:29 & 30 our Lord says to His disciples, *“And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; 30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”*

Yes, Mephibosheth was completely reconciled to King David because of the king's great kindness and mercy. David not only reconciled Mephibosheth to himself but also restored him and made like one of the king's own sons. We are also adopted into God's family as adopted children. 1 John 3:1, *“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...”* Galatians 4:5, *“To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”* Eph.1:5, *“Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.”* Mephibosheth received more from David than what he had lost in Saul. In like manner we get more in Christ than what we lost in Adam. We get more from God than we get from this world. We get peace, we get forgiveness of sins, we receive grace, we get love, mercy and compassion in God, we get eternal life, we get a glorious inheritance and we get an abundant life full of grace and mercy. As Mephibosheth was granted to sit at the king's table we are also granted and given perpetual fellowship and glorious communion with King Jesus.

When Mephibosheth sat at the king's table, he looked like all the other sons of David. In other words all his deformities were covered! In like manner when we sit at King

Jesus' table we will all have the same glorious white robes of righteousness! Rev.7:9 - 12, *"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; 10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. 11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, 12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen."* We will sit with our God in His house, we will dwell with Him forever and all whom He saves will always be accepted into the Lord's presence! Luke 12:37, *"Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them."* How long, continually, for ever and ever! Does it not yearn in your heart to be a follower of Christ? Do it, come to Christ this morning. Give up everything for Christ and serve Him supremely. Desire nothing but Christ this morning and love Him with all your heart. Be one of those who will sit with Christ continually at His table forever and ever.

Is there anyone in the house of God at Hillburn Drive Grace Baptist Church this morning who needs mercy? Come and bow the knee and confess the tongue that Jesus Christ is LORD. Come and throw yourself at the feet of KING JESUS and sue Him for mercy and forgiveness. Is there any left in the house of God at Hillburn Drive Grace Baptist Church, that God may show kindness for Christ's sake! Come, come even now.

To those who are saved, may our hearts be filled with love, blessing, praise, honor, adoration and thanksgiving for the kindness of God which He has shown unto us because Jesus Christ!

LET'S PRAY