

2 Samuel 9:1–6

- ¹ 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!”

Sitting At His Table **2 Samuel 9**

INTRO:

I mentioned how a song I heard recently has really affected me. One line gives me goose bumps. The line is: “*Once Your enemy, now seated at your table, Thank You Jesus.*” This lyric brought two pictures flooding into my mind. First, I thought about the Lord’s Supper which we celebrate regularly. Second, I thought about this picture in **2 Samuel 9**.

- I. David Keeps His Covenant (v. 1-5)***
- II. Mephibosheth before David (v.6-11)***
- III. Mephibosheth and us (verses 12-13)***

I. David Keeps His Covenant (v. 1-5)

“Now David said, ‘Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him [chesed] kindness for Jonathan’s sake?’ 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, 'I am your servant' Then the king said, 'Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the [chesed] kindness of God?' And Ziba said to the king, 'There is still a son of Jonathan who is lame in his feet.'"

A. Much had happened before this to David prior to this chapter. David was made king in Judah shortly after Saul's death in battle. However, he was not king over all Israel. Abner had taken Ishbosheth, the son of Saul, and made him king. Several chapters and some time passes in the first chapters of **2 Samuel**. First, David will be made King over all Israel. The Philistines are not happy so they attack Israel and David has to defeat them. Then David deals with returning the Ark to Jerusalem. Finally, there are several battles of conquest. Now, finally, David will keep his covenant with Jonathan, Son of Saul, who also died in battle with his father.

B. David made a search for someone to show [chesed] for Jonathan's sake. Three items of context need to be pointed out here.

1. First, the almost universal practice when someone ascended to the throne in the ancient near east was they would wipe out the remnants of the former dynasty. All relatives of the previous king were destroyed. David chose not to do this.

2. Second, David made a covenant with Jonathan in **1 Samuel 20:14-17**.
"And you shall not only show me the kindness of the LORD while I still live, that I may not die; but you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.' So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, Now Jonathan again caused David to vow, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul."

3. Although David did not know of any relatives, we know of one. We are told of Mephibosheth in **2 Samuel 4:4**.
"Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who was lame in his feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel; and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth."

C. Ziba is called to David and he inquires of him about Mephibosheth.

II. Mephibosheth before David (v.6-11)

"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.' 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.’ Then he bowed himself, and said, ‘hat is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?’”

A. When this finally happened as many as twenty years plus have passed since David’s covenant promise was made to Jonathan. David could have taken the politicians way out and say something like, ‘*circumstasnces are different than I anticipated so I cannot keep my promise.*’ But a covenant commitment meant something important to David. A covenant should be important to us also. God’s salvation is ours because of a covenant. Remember in the Lord’s Table? ***“This is the New Covenant in My Blood?”*** Marriage is also a covenant. We love enough to commit ourselves to our spouses. It is much more than a piece of paper.

B. Can you imagine the terror Mephibosheth must have felt at being summoned into the presence of the king? Now listen to the first words from David.

v.7 ***“Do not fear, for I will surely show you [chesed] kindness.”***

David was going to show love to Mephibosheth for someone else’s sake. He was going to bless Mephibosheth because of Jonathan. Every day of his life Mephibosheth would sit at David’s table as if he were David’s son, not because he deserved it, but because of someone else. We are the children of God and can sit at His table because the Lord Jesus Christ loved us and died for us.

C. He also arranged for Zeba to farm all of Saul’s land and bring the proceeds to Mephibosheth.

III. Mephibosheth and us (verses 12-13)

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

A. Did Mephibosheth deserve any of this? NO. This was all grace because of what Jonathan was to and did for David. The essence of grace is that while we deserve nothing but wrath, we receive nothing but blessing from our Savior.

B. Do we recognize God’s great grace to us? We who were once enemies are now part of His eternal family.

1. In **Romans 5** we find a passage that should make us feel a little like Mephibosheth.

Romans 5:6–8 ***“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”***

2. In **verses 9-10 of Romans 5** about how we who were His enemies became reconciled to Him.

“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

Once Christ’s enemy, now a part of His eternal family.

C. There is another picture this passage brings to my mind.

Psalm 23:5-6 *“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and [chesed] mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.”*

D. When we think of this do we echo Mephibosheth’s sentiments?

2 Samuel 9:8 *“Then [Mephibosheth] bowed himself, and said, ‘What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?’”*

Do we realize that our position before the living God without Christ is worse than Mephibosheth’s?

Thank You Jesus