

Class 8 –Mephibosheth: Saved by Grace

Mephibosheth (2 Sam 9)

2Sam 4:4 – loss of his father and the use of his legs on the same day! (Tragic life) Trials: Jam 1:2-4

Our reaction to tragedy? Jonathan was his FATHER! Imagine losing such a father!

[Note: Mephibosheth is 5 when his father dies. He has a young son when David shows him kindness]

Hebrew “Chesed” = God’s Favour/Kindness (2 Samuel 9:1)

2 Samuel 9:1 Now David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness [of God v.3] for Jonathan's sake?"

Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

Isaiah 55:3 Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you-The sure mercies of David.

Aside: Machir – does NOT hold a grudge!

2 Samuel 9:4 So the king said to him, "Where is he [Mephibosheth]?" And Ziba said to the king, "Indeed he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar."

2 Samuel 17:27-29 Now it happened, when David had come to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash from Rabbah of the people of Ammon, Machir the son of Ammiel from Lo Debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim, brought beds and basins, earthen vessels and wheat, barley and flour, parched grain and beans, lentils and parched seeds, honey and curds, sheep and cheese of the herd, for David and the people who were with him to eat. For they said, "The people are hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness."

Machir is Bathsheba’s brother, and Ahithophel’s grandson! See 2 Samuel 11:3; 23:34; 1 Chronicles 3:5 (Eliam = Ammiel)

2Sam 9:1-5 David’s kindness to others based on his relationship with Jonathan (**1 Sam. 20:42**).

David displayed God’s grace to Mephibosheth:

- Mephibosheth did not deserve it
- Mephibosheth had done nothing to earn it

- IT WAS BECAUSE OF HIS RELATIONSHIP TO JONATHAN!!

Same for us: Eph. 2:1-13 – we are blessed by God because of our relationship to Jesus Christ!
Adopted into the King’s house!

Our goal is to show the love of Christ to others – to reciprocate His love, to reflect His character!

This IS our service: 1Jn 3:17-20; 4:10-12

2Sam 9:6 – Mephibosheth’s humble approach - **Matt 25:40 (least of Brethren);**

2Sam 9:8 – David had used these words! (**1Sa 24:14**) Had Jonathan heard and told his son?!

Was Mephibosheth a ‘kindred spirit’ with David & Jonathan?

How wonderful for David to find such a one!

2 Sam. 19:24-30 – Mephibosheth and Ziba (Note: Ziba is there **v.17**) – the Truth comes out. Mephibosheth has shown a true love and respect for David – born out of David **first** showing him compassion.

Imagine how much hate would have been generated if David had been vengeful or if Mephibosheth had been bitter towards David!!

What efforts do we make to make (and keep) friends?!

Note: David ‘splits’ the land, but Mephibosheth says Ziba can have it. Cp. Solomon’s method of deciding the true mother of the baby!

Some final thoughts on Friendship:

- ✓ The friendship between David and Mephibosheth was generated and perpetuated by Jonathan's love.
- ✓ How often is hatred (not love) carried from one generation to the next? It never should be!! (Instead: Pay It Forward!!)
- ✓ How many friends have you not made??
- ✓ That is, people you could have become friends with but you missed the opportunity, or never made the effort, or could not be bothered, or just did not care enough!
- ✓ How much effort have you made to undo the negativity of a relationship based on past experiences?
- ✓ ALWAYS show God's kindness to others – make friends!

David spares Mephibosheth one more time!

- 2Samuel 21:7 But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the LORD'S oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul.
- David saved him from the avenger of blood!
- David was his "City of Refuge"!
- Hebrews 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

A summary of our 8 classes on David's Friends and Foes:

God surrounded David with people to remind him of who he really was – to see in others what we often cannot see in ourselves!

- As a natural man: filled with vengeance, lust, pride,....
 - Like Saul, Shimei, Joab, Abishai, Ahithophel, Absalom,...
- As a spiritual man: capable of love, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, ...
 - Abigail, Jonathan, Uriah, Hushai, Mephibosheth, ...

LOOK FOR THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE!!