

# The Kindness of God

2 Samuel 9

One of the greatest illustrations of the grace of God in the Bible is found in 2 Samuel 9. When David showed *“the kindness of God”* to Mephibosheth, it showed why David was called “a man after God’s own heart” (1 Sam. 13:14).

The characters represent:

- David = God the Father (“a man after God’s heart”).
- Jonathan = Jesus
- Mephibosheth (“breathing shame”) = the lost sinner

## I. The **COMPASSION** for Mephibosheth.

➡ None left of the house of Saul (v. 1 cf. Ps. 37:35-36). What brought about the tragic desolation of Saul’s house? SIN. Sin is destructive.

A. It was **GRACIOUS**.

1. *“Kindness of God”* (v. 3) = “Loving kindness.” Titus 3:4— *“But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared.”*
  - In the N.T. it equals “grace.” Eph.2:7— *“...in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus”*).
2. Grace is a demonstration of love to people who do not deserve it, that cannot earn it, that do not merit it, and can no way repay it. (cf. Neh. 9:17).
  - Grace is the opposite of justice. Justice gives to each his exact due: it shows no favor and knows no mercy. Grace is the free unwarranted and unmerited favor of God.
3. There was nothing in Mephibosheth that warranted David’s compassion. David showed kindness to Mephibosheth because of a covenant he made with Jonathan 20 years earlier (1 Sam. 20:15). David shows kindness to Mephibosheth for

- We are forgiven for Jesus sake (Eph. 4:32).
- ➡ Is there someone you need to extend that kind of grace towards?

- B. It was **GENUINE**. David had no ulterior motives.
1. It would not make David any more powerful... It would not bring any rewards of money... There would be no way he could be repaid for it.
  2. How unlike much of the so-called “kindnesses” shown by the world’s celebrities of today.

## II. The **CONDITION** of Mephibosheth.

- ➡ Sad condition. He represents the condition of every unsaved person—It is not that they have a minor cold, but they have a major disease—They are dead in their trespasses and sins.

- A. **His LINEAGE** (of the house of Saul—An enemy- Rom. 5:10). Alienated from David (type of God).

- Eph. 4:18— *“alienated from the life of God.”* Col. 1:21— *“you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.”*

- B. **His LAMENESS** (v. 3).

1. Total lameness (both his feet). The unsaved person is **not partially depraved**—He is totally depraved. There is not one ounce of goodness in the human heart apart from the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Lame due to a fall that was no fault of his own (2 Sam. 4:4).

- C. **His LOCATION** (v. 4).

1. *“House of Machir”* (sold); Rom. 7:14—*“I am carnal, sold under sin.”*
2. *“Lo-debar”* (no pasture / barren waste land / slum). Malnourished—Hungry and has nothing to eat that satisfies.

- ➡ Picture of the world—A barren wasteland. Nothing in this world can satisfy the hunger of the human soul.

- A place of desolation.

- A place of distance—East of the Jordan in Gilead (afar off—Eph. 2:17)...
- Only Jesus can bridge the gap between God and the sinner.

The more we realize the sad condition of a lost person without Christ, the more compassion we will have to bring them to Christ.

### III. The **COMING** of Mephibosheth.

#### A. The **SEEKING** (v. 5).

1. Mephibosheth did not seek for David. David sought after Mephibosheth.
  - ➔ There is a term used today among some churches called “The Seeker Friendly Church.” That is totally unbiblical, because *“there is none that seeketh after God”* (Rom. 3:11)! It is not the lost man seeking a church—It is the church that should be seeking after the lost. *“I have come to seek and to save that which is lost”* (Luke 19:10).
2. He was unable to come to David. He had to be brought to David.
  - ➔ Did David send an invitation to come to Jerusalem? Did he forward a pair of crutches and bid him hobble to Jerusalem as best he could? No! *“Then king David sent and fetched him”* (v. 5). This illustrates the work of the Holy Spirit through soul winners to bring souls to Christ.

#### B. The **SEPARATION** (v. 5— *“...fetched him OUT...”*)

1. David got him out of his desolate environment. The grace of God brings a person out of their sin—it doesn’t leave them in their sin.
2. The servants were not sent to fix up Mephibosheth’s house or improve his environment. They were sent to load Mephibosheth onto a wagon to remove him from his location.

#### C. The **SUBMISSION** (v. 6, 8). When a person realizes the extent of how God has rescued them from the desolation, doom and dominion of sin, they will humbly want to serve the Lord who saved them. How can a saved sinner do any less????

#### IV. The CHANGES of Mephibosheth.

- ➡ Everything bad was changed to everything good. *“What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought, Since Jesus came into my heart!”*
- A. **PEACE** (v. 7). Perfect love casts out fear.
  - B. **PLENTY** (vs. 7, 10). David provided for his every need (and then some!). Mephibosheth went from a place of poverty to a place of plenty! No longer dwelt in “no pasture and barrenness!
  - C. **PROMISE** (v. 7—“surely”; v. 10—“always”; vs. 7, 13 - “continually”). His insecurity was changed to security.
  - D. **PLEASURE** (vs. 10-12). 35 people waiting on him! Real pleasure is in presence of Christ.
  - E. **POSITION** (v. 11). Placed at the table as a son of David. His despised position was changed to a position of honor.
    - *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...* (1 John 3:1)

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What it must have been like to sit among the sons of David at his table: Joab- David’s general, strong and brave; Ammon- clever and witty; Absalom- handsome; years later, Solomon would also be sitting there. Finally, in comes Mephibosheth dragging his crippled feet behind him. He takes his seat at the king’s table and the tablecloth of grace covers his crippled feet.

Aren’t you glad when our lives have been scarred and marred, by sin, that we can sit at God’s table with Abraham, Moses, David, Peter, James, John, and Paul and have the tablecloth of God’s grace cover the blemishes of our sins.

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**SUMMATION:** Grace REACHES us. Grace RESCUES us. Grace RESTORES us!

- He was adopted into a new family... SO ARE WE
- He received a new home.... SO DO WE
- He sat at the king’s table... SO WILL WE.

There is no other word for grace than AMAZING!