



3 | 2 Samuel 9

AT THE KING'S TABLE

I was once an enemy but I'm now a friend of Jesus!

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Welcome to our worship time. We are so glad you could join us.

Call to Worship:

Romans 5:6-11 (NIV)

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Songs

Amazing Grace My Chains are Gone
Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
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How Sweet and Awesome is the Place

Introduction

Open your Bibles to **2 Samuel 9**. The title of our message today is "At the King's Table." How amazing that we as sinners deserving God's wrath are now welcomed at our King's table.

After Jesus was raised from the dead, he cooked a meal for his disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. He said to them, "**Come and dine**" (Jn 21:12). Can you imagine how incredible it would be to have a meal with the risen King of kings? We are so unworthy, and yet we who believe in Jesus have a seat at the King's table.

Central Message of Redemption (Mephibosheth): Today, we are studying about a crippled boy named Mephibosheth, the grandson of David's greatest enemy: King Saul. King David didn't have to, but he showed great mercy to this crippled boy, and gave him all the rights and privileges of royalty, having him eat with him at the king's table.

Key truth: Today we are going to look at the tender mercies of our Savior, and how he loves the most guilty and undeserving of sinners. Let us be amazed at his grace.

Context: For those who may not know, Mephibosheth lived in a place called Lo-debar. He was the son of Jonathan and the grandson of Saul. After Saul and Jonathan were killed in battle, he was in danger of death. No one from Saul's family should have lived. Yet David wanted to show kindness to the family of his greatest enemy. David is an amazing picture of the mercy of God.

Come and Dine! Mephibosheth became **the table guest** of the great King David. To dine with the king meant he had the **same rights and privileges as the king's own son**. King David brought him into the palace as a son to forever have safety and refuge and the

love that was so undeserved. We see the love of Christ beautifully portrayed in this story. We see the kinds of people Christ loves to dine with.

Pastor Michael, would you read 2 Samuel 9 for us today?

2 SAMUEL 9:1-13 | And David said, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him **kindness** for Jonathan's sake?" ² Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David. And the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "I am your servant." ³ And the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the **kindness** of God to him?" Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet." ⁴ The king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar." ⁵ Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar. ⁶ And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, "Mephibosheth!" And he answered, "Behold, I am your servant." ⁷ And David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will show you **kindness** for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always." ⁸ And he paid homage and said, "What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?" ⁹ Then the king called Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson. ¹⁰ And you and your sons and your servants shall till the land for him and shall bring in the produce, that your master's grandson may have bread to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's grandson shall always eat at my table." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. ¹¹ Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king commands his servant, so will your servant do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table, like one of the king's sons. ¹² And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Mica. And all who lived in Ziba's house became Mephibosheth's servants. ¹³ So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate always at the king's table. Now he was lame in both his feet."

Thank you, Pastor Michael. There's a key word in the first 7 verses. In English it is kindness. It's the Hebrew word: hesed. Mephibosheth was **destitute**, helpless, needy, crippled. King David showed him kindness and brought him to eat at his table.

1. **DESTITUTE PEOPLE EAT WITH THE KING (9:1-3)**

THE GIFT

Three times David mentions it, in verse 1, in verse 3, and in verse 7. He says, "I am searching for Mephibosheth, a descendant of Saul, to give him **kindness**. Is there anyone to whom I can show **kindness**? I want to show God's **kindness** to a descendent of Saul.

That's a fairly weak English word to get across one of the most important Hebrew words in the Bible. It's the word **hesed**, or it's often translated steadfast love, covenant love.¹

We cannot forget that in Saul's eyes David had become his bitterest enemy (cf 1 Sam 18:29; 19:17; and 21:10).² So this kindness is extraordinary. It's a picture of God's covenant kindness to us.

What is the Gift of God's "Covenant"?

Now when the Bible refers to God's covenant, it ultimately points to the covenant of Redemption we have in Jesus. That's where the fountain of all God's kindness is. Anyone who believes in Jesus gets the kindness of God. How Jesus wants to show kindness to us!

Pastor Mike, God's covenant in Jesus is one God keeps for us when we put our faith in Jesus. How does that work?

THE RECEIVER

We see God's kindness in the story of Mephibosheth. David wants to show kindness to Mephibosheth. What a picture of God's kindness!

2 SAMUEL 9:3 | And the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?" Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet."

Crippled

Look at Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth. He is crippled. He needs a servant to take care of him. There was nothing Mephibosheth could do for himself. Yet King David treated the crippled boy as his own son. Why would David show such love? It was nothing in Mephibosheth.

The first time we find his Mephibosheth's name is in **2 Samuel 4:4**. This was the great battle where King Saul and his son die in a battle at Mount Gilboa. Mephibosheth, just a five year old boy at the time, was left with his caretaker. As news spread, Saul's family panicked. There was confusion, and everyone fled for their lives.

2 Samuel 4:4, "Jonathan, the son of Saul, had a son who was crippled 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 as she fled in her haste, he fell and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth."

Mephibosheth was made a cripple when his nurse dropped him at the news of the death of his father and grandfather.

¹ Timothy J. Keller, *The Timothy Keller Sermon Archive* (New York City: Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2013).

² John Woodhouse, *2 Samuel: Your Kingdom Come*, ed. R. Kent Hughes, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015), 256.

An Enemy

Remember Mephibosheth's grandfather was David's greatest enemy. Saul hunted David's life relentlessly. So Mephibosheth's from the family of the enemy. Yet King David is desiring to show kindness to him.

THE GIVER

Look at David. He could have just forgotten about Saul's family, but he wants to bless his enemy.

Jesus blesses his enemies

David was searching for someone from his enemy's family to bless. So it is with Jesus. Christ is searching and seeking to save the lost.

The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost
(Lk 19:10).

King David could have left crippled Mephibosheth helpless, but instead, he helps this young crippled boy. What a generous heart the King has.

Jesus blesses the powerless

He didn't come to save his friends, but his enemies. And just like David blessing the helpless Mephibosheth, Jesus comes while we were yet **powerless** to save us!

Romans 5:6, 8, For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly... ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Pastor Mike, how can a person come to know Jesus Christ personally right now?

2. DOOMED PEOPLE EAT WITH THE KING (9:1)

This is not written directly in the text, but it is clear that Mephibosheth is under the death penalty. He should be **doomed**. The ancient tradition of kings was that the new king would exterminate the entire family of the former king so that there was no threat to his authority. Every day in Lo-debar is a day wondering if he will die.

WE ARE DESERVING OF DEATH

Christ has come to save a **doomed and guilty** people.

2 SAMUEL 9:1 | And David said, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

IN CHRIST WE HAVE LIFE

In Christ, our death penalty is lifted. The King of kings has every right to condemn us. All of us have transgressed God's commandments. We deserve His just wrath forever, but in Christ, God's just penalty is removed.

Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus".

3. DISGRACED PEOPLE EAT WITH THE KING (9:3-5)

WITHOUT CHRIST WE ARE DISGRACED

Mephibosheth was a disgraced young man. His grandfather had tried to kill the true king, God's anointed, King David. David had nothing to gain by saving Mephibosheth. David showed God's kindness to him. Mephibosheth becomes a picture of the Gospel and goes from being disgraced to desired. Like God, David brings the Mephibosheth from disgrace to amazing grace.

2 SAMUEL 9:3-5 | And the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?" Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet." ⁴The king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar." ⁵Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar.

David went after Mephibosheth—not to kill him, but to save him! It was not for Mephibosheth's sake, but "for Jonathan's sake" (9:1).

IN CHRIST WE ARE DESIRED

We see that there was nothing sparing Mephibosheth's life except the covenant David made with Jonathan in **1 Samuel 20**.

Jonathan said to David, "¹⁴... Show me unfailing kindness like the Lord's kindness as long as I live... ¹⁵and do not ever cut off your kindness from my family—not even when the Lord has cut off every one of David's enemies from the face of the earth.' ¹⁶ So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David... (**1 Sam 20:14-16**)

God calls us in time because of a covenant before the foundation of the world. Paul tells us that...

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves (**Eph 1:4-6**).

He has desired you because of a covenant he made with the Father. He desires you so much He gives His life to you.

Jesus is “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (**Rev 13:8**).

Before the foundation of the world God set His love on us. There is nothing in us worthy of loving. But God loves us from before he made the world.

“I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness (*hesed*)” (**Jer 31:3**).

4. DEVOTED PEOPLE EAT WITH THE KING (9:6-8)

When Mephibosheth is brought before David, he humbles himself and pays homage to King David. He's not defiant, but docile. David wants him to eat at his table always.

2 SAMUEL 9:6-8 | And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, “Mephibosheth!” And he answered, “Behold, I am your servant.”⁷ And David said to him, “Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always.”⁸ And he paid homage and said, “What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?”

Mephibosheth shows that he deserves no mercy. He calls himself a “dead dog.” Look at the humility!

Why should David have mercy on Mephibosheth? Because he is the king, and he can do whatever he wants. Look at Mephibosheth's humility. He paid homage to David. In the same way, God says to us in **Romans 9**

Romans 9:15, “I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”

Mercy is not something we can demand. God does not have to save anyone. But Jesus opens his arms to anyone who would come to him by faith.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light (**Mt 11:28-29**).

Mephibosheth saw himself as unworthy. He said to David, “What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?” (9:8). That is the kind of person that Christ has mercy on!

Jesus said, “I came not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (**Mt 9:13**).

If you know yourself to be a great sinner, then you can be saved. Trust in the merits of Christ's death on the cross. Trust Him! You are unable to save yourself.

5. DEPLETED PEOPLE EAT WITH THE KING (9:7, 10)

Finally, **depleted** people are those who eat at the King's table. Mephibosheth was essentially poor and bankrupt. In Lo-debar there was no help for Mephibosheth. Yet Mephibosheth went from bankrupt to billionaire. Mephibosheth would never return to Lo-debar. All fear is now gone because he's eating at the table of the King.

2 SAMUEL 9:7, 10 | And David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and **you shall eat at my table always.**"
10...Mephibosheth your master's grandson shall always eat at my table."

All his land is restored, and more. He gets to eat with the king and enjoy his provision and protection. There is nothing to fear if you have put your faith in Jesus Christ. In Christ, you will always eat at the King's table. You have everything you need in Christ.

My dear brother and sister in Christ, there is nothing to fear—not even death, for the King of kings has set his love upon us!

I know we have fears because of the effects on the economy and our livelihood. I want to repeat, there is nothing to fear.

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (**Phil 4:19**).

And because God's love is upon us, we are adopted into His family. We are seated at His table. All His riches are our riches. His love is lavished upon us. We are now counted as God's very own children. And the Bible says that if we are God's children then we are his heirs, "heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ" (**Rom 8:17**).

Conclusion: I love to eat with my friends, my family, and my church family. I can't wait till this is over and we can again meet together, worship together, and eat a meal together. Won't that be amazing?

But you know what I'm looking forward to? It's what Grandpa Garcia is doing right now. He has perfect communion with Jesus. Won't that be amazing to be with the King and see our King face to face?

One day we are going to sit down with Jesus at the marriage supper of the Lamb. **Pastor Mike**, as we close can you read Revelation 19?

Revelation 19:6-9, I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. ⁷ Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; ⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. ⁹ And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb."

We are safe and secure in Jesus: safe at our King's table, with his love and full protection. Amen!