

Message #13**II Samuel 9:1-13**

At this point in the life of King David, things were all positive. The world was stable and he was honored. God had entered into a covenant agreement with David and He was making David's name great. God gave David a series of great victories and people from all over the world brought David all kinds of money and tributes. David had never experienced anything like this before in his life. God took him from following sheep to becoming His great king.

David never let that go to his head. He was not some obnoxious egotist like Saul. David was thankful for everything God had done for him and with him.

David always kept God at the forefront of his life. He had a heart that wanted to do what was right and he always wanted to do what pleased God. This really is evidenced by his desire to do something kind for anyone who was still alive from the family of Saul.

DAVID WAS A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART AND ONE OF THE THINGS THAT MADE HIM THAT WAY WAS THAT HE DESIRED TO FAITHFULLY FULFILL A COVENANT PROMISE AND SHOW SAUL'S FAMILY THE KINDNESS AND MERCY OF GOD.

Years before David ever became king, he had entered into a covenant agreement with his dear friend Jonathan. Jonathan knew that one day David would be the King and that God would destroy David's enemies. So Jonathan entered into a covenant with David.

David had agreed never to cut off his loving-kindness from Jonathan's family (I Sam. 20:15-17). David also promised Saul himself that he would never cut off Saul's family (I Sam. 24:21). David was a man of integrity. David never forgot that covenant. David was a man of his word.

God does not ever forget about covenants. When a person believes on Jesus Christ, that person is in an eternal covenant relationship with God (Heb. 10:14-18). Even if that person acts bizarre, God will never forget it.

Verse 1 makes it clear that what David decides to do is for Jonathan's sake. He remembered that covenant he had made with him years before.

HISTORICAL FACT #1 – David asks is there anyone left from Saul's family. **9:1**

Probably about ten years have gone by when David asks this question. But even though ten years had passed, David never forgot about his promises. Now David truly did not know if there were any left from the family of Saul.

At this point in time most of Saul's relatives were dead. David knew that. David knew that Saul and Jonathan were dead (II Sam. 1:1, 4). He also knew that 360 of the house of Saul had died in the battle of Gibeon (II Sam. 2:31; 3:1). He knew that Abner had died (II Sam. 3:27). He also knew that Ishbosheth, Saul's son, was dead (II Sam. 4:1, 7-8).

Now the reason David wants to know this is he wants to show him kindness because of Jonathan. In fact, the kindness of David displays the kindness of God (9:3).

Now the word "kindness" is hesed, which speaks of loving kindness and mercy to those who cannot do anything to get it because they are in a totally helpless condition. David wanted to show God's mercy to someone in Saul's family, if there were any still alive.

HISTORICAL FACT #2 – Saul's servant informs David that Jonathan's son is still alive.
9:2-3

There was a man who had been a servant of Saul, whose name was Ziba. He had been a servant of Saul and now claimed that he was a servant of David. He answered David and said there is one son of Jonathan still alive, who is a crippled boy.

Now actually there were some other relatives of Saul still alive (II Sam. 21:8). Ziba must have known that. But for some reason, he zeroed in on one crippled son of Jonathan. It is possible that he believed by bringing out the handicap, he is trying to show David that he was no threat at all to David.

We may recall that the boy had been crippled due to an injury he sustained due to an injury he suffered as a child at age five when his nurse was fleeing with him and he fell (II Sam. 4:4).

Now David makes it clear in **verse 3** that the reason why he wants to know this is that he wants to demonstrate kindness and mercy to him.

HISTORICAL FACT #3 – David wants to know his location. **9:4**

Ziba believed that David wanted to show him kindness and Ziba informed David that he was living in exile east of the Jordan in a remote area at the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo-debar.

Jonathan's son was not living anywhere near where the family estate was located. Machir must have been a very wealthy and supportive man. Machir was very positive toward David. In fact, later he would bring great help and support to David (II Sam. 17:27-29), when Absalom pursued him.

Machir lived east of the Jordan River at Lo-debar in the Jordan River valley.

HISTORICAL FACT #4 – David sent men to bring Jonathan’s son to him. **9:5**

Now it must have been somewhat scary for men to come get you when you are crippled and when you are in Saul’s family, who for many years made life miserable for David.

So to have David’s men come and take you to David would be scary. This was the grandson of Saul and he certainly knew that Saul had been hateful to David. Even though he was only 5 years old when Saul died and when his father Jonathan died (II Sam. 4:4), he must have been thinking about this as he was being transported to David.

Think for a moment how intimidating it will be when Jesus Christ sends for us to appear before His Bema Seat. That will be a very scary moment.

HISTORICAL FACT #5 – Mephibosheth fell down before David. **9:6a**

When he was brought to David, he fell down out of respect and humility before David and declared himself to be David’s servant.

There was no reason why he would have expected David to be kind to him. But what we do see is that he honored David by bowing down before him.

He also called himself David’s servant.

HISTORICAL FACT #6 – David shows kindness and mercy to Mephibosheth. **9:6b-7**

There are some very personal actions that occur here:

Personal Action #1 - David calls Mephibosheth by name. **9:6b**

Personal Action #2 - David tells Mephibosheth to not fear. **9:7a**

Personal Action #3 - David tells Mephibosheth he will show kindness/mercy to him. **9:7b**

Personal Action #4 - David tells Mephibosheth he shows kindness because of his father, Jonathan. **9:7c**

See this clearly. The reason David is showing Mephibosheth his kindness and mercy is not because his works deserve it or that he has earned it. It is due to the fact that he was in a covenant relationship and friendship with his father.

Personal Action #5 - David tells Mephibosheth that he will restore all the land of his grandfather Saul. **9:7d**

This is pure grace. David is giving Mephibosheth all the land that Saul had, even though Saul had been a perpetual thorn in David’s side.

Personal Action #6 - David informs Mephibosheth that he will eat at David's table regularly. **9:7e**

He would actually have access to the King's home and the King's table. Notice David adds this will not be a onetime thing. He would eat at David's table regularly. He would have continued fellowship with the King.

HISTORICAL FACT #7 – Mephibosheth responds to David's kindness. **9:8**

Mephibosheth was overwhelmed with what David did.

Response #1 - He humbled himself physically. **9:8a**

Response #2 - He humbled himself verbally. **9:8b**

He again refers to himself as David's servant and he also refers to himself as a dead dog. He could not believe that David would do such wonderful things for him.

Mephibosheth would not lose out on becoming David's servant. In fact, he would be greatly blessed. We do not ever lose out when we become a servant of Jesus Christ. In fact, we receive a hundredfold (Matt. 19:29).

The moment one believes on Jesus Christ, their status is instantly changed. One goes from being dead in trespasses and sins to being alive unto God.

HISTORICAL FACT #8 – David orders Ziba concerning Mephibosheth. **9:9-13**

David called Ziba to him and he informed him of decisions he had made. At this point, Ziba has no choice in this matter. However, later in the book Ziba will try to manipulate David into altering this (II Sam. 16:2-4):

Decision #1 - All that was Saul's has been given to Mephibosheth. **9:9**

Decision #2 - You and your sons and servants will take care of the land. **9:10a**

You shall cultivate the land and bring the produce to Mephibosheth.

Decision #3 - Mephibosheth shall eat regularly at David's table. **9:10b**

The end of **verse 10** states that Ziba had 15 sons and 20 servants.

According to **verse 11**, Ziba submitted to everything David said.

Verse 11 says that Mephibosheth regularly ate at David's table as one of his own sons.

Mephibosheth, himself, had a young son whose name was Mica. He is also known as Micah (I Chron. 8:34-35). He would grow up and produce four sons and preserve the family of Jonathan.

Verse 13 concludes with the information that Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem and ate at the king's table regularly and was lame in both of his feet.

What a story. The lame are invited to eat at the king's table and have fellowship with Him.

Do we not see a tremendous application to this? The kindness of God and the mercy of God are amazing. Those who have been crippled by sin are invited to come into fellowship with the king.