

Scripture: *Seated at the King's Table*

Scripture: *2 Samuel 9:1-13*

How would you like to sit and eat at the table of President Donald Trump every day? What if he invited you to live in the White House, at Trump Plaza or one of his prestigious properties and what if he promised to take care of every need? There's a story in the Bible that tops that. It is the story of a man named Mephibosheth and he is a picture of every child of God. At one time he was nothing but a beggar, but this beggar to his seat at the banquet table of the king.

1. How the king sought him

Mephibosheth was the son of Jonathan and the grandson of King Saul. This is a beautiful picture of Christ's love for us.

- The king's initiative (vs. 1)

King David wanted to do something to show kindness for Jonathan's sake. The Bible says there is no one who seeks after God. After Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, he hid from God, but God sought Adam and found him ("Adam, where are you?"). **1 John 4:19** *We love him, because he first loved us.*

- The king's investigation (vs. 4)

David asked Saul's servant, Ziba, where Mephibosheth was. He was living in Lo-debar, which means "no pasture."

- The king's intervention (vs. 5)

David sent someone to bring him because he couldn't walk (vs. 3). He was crippled since he was five years old because of a fall (2 Sam. 4:4). There is a song that says, "He came to me. Yes, He came to me. When I could not come to where He was, He came to me."

Romans 5:6 *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.* An atheist challenged a Christian: "That Christianity stuff is just a crutch." The Christian replied, "I guess you're right, but a crutch ain't bad if you're crippled."

2. What the king showed him

He showed him kindness (vs. 1, 3, 7). Years ago when my son, David, played football, his coach gave a testimony at the year-end banquet. He said that he had forgotten to temper his discipline with tenderness and compassion and said he learned again how to be a "benevolent dictator." King David was that kind of man. He was a benevolent king. He ruled with kindness and compassion, just like our Lord Jesus Christ.

- It was kindness for the sake of another (vs. 1)

When Mephibosheth was brought to David, he was afraid. He probably thought that David would kill him. Kings would often kill all potential rivals to the throne. He didn't understand David's motive was kindness. David's kindness was based on a covenant that he had made with Jonathan in **1 Samuel 20:14-17** *And thou shalt not only while yet I live show me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not: But also thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my*

house for ever: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth. So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, Let the LORD even require it at the hand of David's enemies. And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

- It was the kindness of God (vs. 3)

It was the highest form of kindness. The word “kindness” means loyal love, covenant love. To call someone else a dog was a term of contempt (vs. 8). To call yourself a dog was an expression of humility before a superior. In OT times dogs were not loved as pets, but despised as scavengers. Mephibosheth confessed he was helpless and useless. David’s kindness was truly amazing to him. Each of us is crippled by sin, unable to help ourselves, and unworthy of God’s kindness. His kindness should amaze us and humble us. What usually amazes us is God’s judgment instead of His grace. Many people feel entitled to His grace.

3. Where the king seated him

He was seated at the king’s table (the place of honor).

- He was seated at a plentiful place

He lived at Jerusalem in the king’s palace with all of his personal expenses met by the king.

- He was seated at a privileged place

Only those born into the family or adopted into the family could eat there. Mephibosheth sat and ate as one of the king’s sons (vs. 11).

- He was seated at a permanent place

David promised that he would eat there always. Notice the words “continually” (vs. 7, 13) and “always” (vs. 10).

If you were Mephibosheth, how would you feel about King David? He must have been thankful. He must have felt secure and cared for. He always praised the king. How should we feel about our Lord Jesus Christ?

Ephesians 2:1 *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.*

Ephesians 2:4-7 ⁴*But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)* ⁶*And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:* ⁷*That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

Who is that talking about? Every person who is in God’s family, and this is the way into His family. **John 1:11-12** ¹¹*He came unto his own, and his own received him not. ¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.* God gives us the privilege to be His sons if we receive His Son by faith.