



“The King’s Table”

“Don’t be afraid,” David said to him, “for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table.” 2 Samuel 9:7

Getting on the Same Page

This Sunday we continue our *Legendary God* series with the beautiful story of Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth was a son of Jonathan and grandson of King Saul. He was crippled in both feet from being dropped at a young age. Eventually, Jonathan and Saul get killed in battle. To make matters worse, David ascends to the throne in Israel.

In ancient times, when a king came to power, he would start by destroying or banishing any remaining family members of the former king. All of them were a threat to the current ruler. Mephibosheth is crippled, has no advocates, and is for king Saul’s grandson. His life is in grave danger.

But king David shows him extraordinary love and kindness. He adopts Mephibosheth into his family. He gives him extravagant riches and land. David risks his own kingship and reputation by doing this. But why?

Because David loved Mephibosheth’s father Jonathan. Because David and Jonathan made a covenant to love one another and look out for one another’s family members. Because Jonathan risked his own life and reputation for David.

You see what's happening here? Mephibosheth is crippled and, according to ancient near eastern customs, is set to die. He can't be in the presence of the king and live. But the king loves him, not based on Mephibosheth's loyalty to him, but based on someone else's.

This is a powerful picture of God's love for us. If we accept Jesus' sacrifice for our sins, God does not count our sins against us. We are all like Mephibosheth; broken, crippled sinners with nothing to offer God. But in Jesus, God puts his love on us. By Jesus' advocacy; by his wounds; we are healed. None of us deserve a seat at the king's table. But in Christ, all are invited to the banquet.

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

- Why is it so important to see God as the ultimate hero in all these stories?
- Discuss a time when someone surprised you by including you on a team or in a group, or nominated you for an award. How did it feel?
- Read 2 Samuel 9. What stands out to you?

Study

- Put yourself in Mephibosheth's place. How would you feel?
- In our story, David is going to show Mephibosheth a great *kindness*. The Hebrew word is *Hesed*, which means, "A love so enduring that it persists beyond any sin," or "unmerited kindness that seeks to actively intervene." Why is it so important that God is like this?
- Respond: David's kindness to Mephibosheth was motivated by the covenant he made with Mephibosheth's father Jonathan, not based on his feelings for Mephibosheth. As Christians, our kindness to others is based on God's prior love and kindness toward us, not on how we feel about any particular person.
- Respond: God's grace assaults our pride, because there is nothing we can do to earn it.
- Respond: All of us are like Mephibosheth. We are poor, broken, and have nothing to offer God on our own merit. None of us deserve to sit at the king's table. Yet, in Christ, we are all invited to the banquet.

Apply

- Discuss how Jesus is the greater David and Jonathan. Discuss how you can model/share Jesus' unearned kindness with others this coming week.