

Topic: Amazing Grace
Text: 2 Samuel 9:1-13 (NIV)
Theme: “God’s amazing grace lifts us up to a higher ground”

INTRODUCTION

- The Old Testament narrative account of Mephibosheth's life was a blaring proof of God's amazing grace towards His people. At age five, Prince Mephibosheth became lame for life when his nurse dropped him in haste to flee following his grandfather King Saul's downfall.
- But being crippled wasn't the end of it all.
- Later in his life, a man of God, King David of Israel, sought for him determined to change his stature. David showed kindness and mercy to Mephibosheth by adopting him like his own son, restoring his position as royal, and giving back all of King Saul's possession.
- This sermon is an eye-opener for every one to see how David's unconditional acceptance of Mephibosheth to his royal family indicates the Father's intention to adopt His own people: Christians.
- At the end of this preaching, the congregation will thank and praise God for His amazing grace that lifts them up to a higher level of blessing.

I. GRACE ADOPTS US INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD

V1 David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

V3a The king asked, "Is there no one still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?"

V11b So Mephibosheth ate at David's table like one of the king's sons.

- V1 refers to David's natural character as being merciful and kind. Human kindness is sometimes conditional, limited and has boundaries.
- V3a refers to God's mercy and kindness (grace in Hebrew) that leads to ADOPTION:
 - Adopted children are more fortunate than natural children because they were picked.

- Adopted children are selected from a whole range while biological children are the results of “no-choice-at-all” or “whatever comes.”
- Adopting someone is an unconditional acceptance; it's a demonstration of love that is undeserved, unearned, and unrepayable.

David's kindness and mercy is like God's amazing grace

- David is like God who is looking for someone whom he could bestow his mercy.
- Most kings would try to wipe out the families of their rivals to prevent possible ascendancy to the throne, but not David.
- David has a big, forgiving heart to adopt his enemy's kin into his family.

A. Mephibosheth was adopted into the king's family.

V11b So Mephibosheth ate at David's table like one of the king's sons.

1. In v1, David asked, *“Is there anyone?”* and NOT “Is there anyone QUALIFIED or WORTHY?”
2. In v3b, Ziba answered the king, *“There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet.”* Ziba was trying to say, “King David, Your Highness, you better think twice, the person you're adopting is not going to look very good in your court, he's crippled.”
3. David's response in v4a was *“Where is he?”* and NOT “How badly?”
4. Ziba represents people who look at individuals and highlighting the negatives, while David represents God who looks at individuals as potentials.

B. Christians are all adopted into the King's great big family.

1. God's grace isn't picky, isn't one-sided. His grace is UNFAILING (rain or shine, hail or storm), UNSOUGHT (available 24/7 like air), and UNLIMITED (never runs out like an overflowing spring).

2. The word "WHOSOEVER" in John 3:16 is the keyword that unlocks God's invitation to all mankind to be adopted into His great, big family.

II. GRACE TRANSPORTS US FROM A BARREN PLACE TO A PLACE OF HONOUR

V5a *So King David had him brought from Lo Debar...*

V6 *When Mephibosheth... came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor. David said, "Mephibosheth!" "Your servant," he replied.*

V7a,c *"Don't be afraid," David said to him, "for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan... you will always eat at my table."*

A. *Mephibosheth was taken from his hiding place to eat at the king's table.*

1. M was transported from a house of scarcity at Makir's house, to a house of plenty.
2. He was brought to the palace, scared, faced down, threw away his crutches, fell on the ground, his whole body shaking, his heartbeat raced like a race horse, expecting the worst of his life, and thought: "THIS IS IT."
3. When he heard the King calling his name sternly in v6, in v7 he heard the most soothing three words of his lifetime: *"Don't be afraid... for I will surely show you kindness... you will always eat at my table."*
4. David was saying something like: "Don't be afraid:
 - a) I am transporting you from a deserted place in Lo Debar to an affluent metropolis of Jerusalem;
 - b) I am transporting you from bare apparel like a pauper to fully clad apparel like a prince;
 - c) I am transporting you from your bleak present status as a refugee to your past status as a royalty."

B. Christians will be taken from a barren place called Earth to eat at the King's table in heaven.

1. Christians will also be transported from the Earth to Heaven. Here on earth we are just passing through, we are transients.
2. Jesus prepared a place for us in heaven (John 14:2), a place of honour, affluence, dressed in royalty apparel, provided with anything that you desire for.

III. GRACE REMINDS US OF OUR DISABILITIES AS GOD RESTORES HIS FACILITIES

V7b "I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul..."

V8 Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?"

V9 Then the king summoned Ziba... "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family.

V10 You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master's grandson may be provided for..." (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.)

V11a Then Ziba said to the king, "Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do."

A. Mephibosheth had nothing to repay the King.

V8 Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?"

1. He had nothing but his crippled feet. Could not even walk straight up by himself, nor work to provide for his family; all he knew was he was crippled.
2. He had no skills, no talents, a total liability in the palace; all he knew was he was crippled.
3. He did not even try to win the King's favour, he was hiding like a fugitive; all he knew was he was crippled.

4. V8 paraphrase: "What is in me that you notice me who is like a dead dog?" Upon hearing this, David might have been reminded of what he had written in Psalm 8:3-4:

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

B. Mephibosheth had nothing to but crutches, yet he was given the plenty of the King

V7b "I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul..."

V9 Then the king summoned Ziba... "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family.

V10 You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master's grandson may be provided for... " (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.)

V11a Then Ziba said to the king, "Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do."

C. Like Mephibosheth's disability, our continual problem with sin is a continual reminder of God's grace.

D. God chose us in our sinful and rebellious condition and changed us.