

# 2 Samuel 09 - David Show Kindness to Mephibosheth

I. David's faith (2 Sam 1:1—10:19)

(3) Military victory (8:1—10:19)

(B) David's concern for Saul's family (9:1-13)

## 2 Samuel 9

(B) David's concern for Saul's family (9:1-13)

1 Then David said, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul, so that I could show him **kindness** for Jonathan's sake?"

1 Then David said, "Is there yet anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

1 Later on, David asked, "Is there anyone left alive from Saul's household to whom I can show gracious love in memory of Jonathan?"

1 And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?

- In what is sometimes called the "Succession Narrative" (2 Sam 9-20; 1 Kings 1-2), David took steps to succeed Saul and to establish the permanence of his own dynasty

— His first step was to solicit support from the Northern tribes by extending favor to the surviving members of Saul's household

— The way David carried out his royal affairs showed he was a God-centered king who cared for His people. Just as he upheld God's promises to Israel for security, David also kept his own promises to offer the grace, generosity and security God had given him.

- "...kindness" - *hesed*, God's loyal love (v1,3,7)

2 Now *there was* a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they summoned him to David; and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "*I am* your servant."

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."

2 A household servant of Saul named Ziba was called to appear before David, and the king asked him, "Are you Ziba?"

"I am your servant," Ziba replied.

2 And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant is he.

3 Then the king said, "Is there no one remaining of the house of Saul to whom I could show **the kindness of God**?" And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan, one who is disabled in both feet."

3 The king said, "Is there not yet anyone of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan who is crippled in both feet."

3 At this the king asked, "Isn't there still someone left from Saul's household to whom I may show God's gracious love?"

"There's Jonathan's son. He has maimed feet," Ziba answered.

3 And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.

- David had pledged to Jonathan that he would never forget the covenant of friendship that had bound them together (1 Sam 20:14-17)

— He therefore called Ziba, a servant of Saul, and asked him if some member of Saul's family had special need (Cf. 1 Sam 20:42)

- "...the kindness of God" - *hesed*, David promised to Jonathan to show his descendants *hesed* (1 Sam 20:14), and here David is looking for a descendant of Saul in order to show him *hesed*

4 So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he is in the house of Machir the son of **Ammiel**, in **Lo-debar**."

4 So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel in Lo-debar."

4 So David asked, "Where is he?"

Ziba responded, "He's in Lo-debar at the home of Ammiel's son Makir."

4 And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.

- "...Ammiel" - the name of Bathsheba's father (1 Chr 3:5), but doubtful this is him

- "...Lo-debar" - "no pasture"

- Ziba replied that Mephibosheth, the lame son of Jonathan (2 Sam 4:4), was still alive and living at Lo Debar (just east of the Jordan, five miles south of the Wadi Yarmuk; Cf. 17:27)

— Unwittingly, Ziba revealed the hiding place of Mephibosheth, and David could have easily killed him (Cf. 16:1-3)

5 Then King David sent messengers who brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar.

5 Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar.

5 At this, King David sent for him and brought him from the home of Ammiel's son Makir in Lo-debar.

5 Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.

- David immediately sent for him, restored Saul's personal estate to him, and supported him on a royal pension (v7)

6 Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and prostrated himself. And David said, "**Mephibosheth.**" And he said, "Here is your servant!"

6 Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and prostrated himself. And David said, "Mephibosheth." And he said, "Here is your servant!"

6 When Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son and a grandson of Saul, approached David, he threw himself on his face out of respect.

"Mephibosheth!" David said as he greeted him.

"Hello! I am your servant," he replied.

6 Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant!

- "...Mephibosheth" - also called "Meribbaal"

7 Then David said to him, "Do not be afraid, for I will assuredly show **kindness** to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul; and you yourself shall eat at my table regularly."

7 David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul; and you shall eat at my table regularly."

7 "Don't be afraid," David reassured him, "because I'm going to show gracious love to you in memory of your father Jonathan. I'm going to restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you'll always have a place at my table!"

7 And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread

at my table continually.

- "...kindness" - *hesed*, in all this, David showed God's "loyal love" for Jonathan's sake (Cf. v1,3)

— Kings coming into power often eliminated entire households of those they replaced

— David's grant gave Mephibosheth the land, position, ownership, purpose and the dignity of his own income

8 Again he prostrated himself, and said, "What is your servant, that you should be concerned about a dead dog like me?"

8 Again he prostrated himself and said, "What is your servant, that you should regard a dead dog like me?"

8 Mephibosheth bowed low again and asked, "Who am I, your servant, that you would pay attention to a dead dog like me?"

8 And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?

- In humility Mephibosheth referred to himself as David's servant (v6) and as a dead dog (v8), that is, worthless (Cf. 16:9)

9 Then the king summoned Saul's servant Ziba and said to him, "Everything that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson.

9 Then the king called Saul's servant Ziba and said to him, "All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson.

9 At this, the king called for Saul's servant Ziba and told him, "I'm restoring to your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family.

9 Then the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said unto him, I have given unto thy master's son all that pertained to Saul and to all his house.

10 You and your sons and your servants shall cultivate the land for him, and you shall bring in *the produce* so that your master's grandson will have food to eat; nevertheless Mephibosheth, your master's grandson, shall eat at my table regularly." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

10 You and your sons and your servants shall cultivate the land for him, and you shall bring in *the produce* so that your master's grandson may have food; nevertheless Mephibosheth your master's grandson shall eat at my table regularly." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

10 You and your servants are to farm the land on his behalf and bring in the crops in order to provide for your master's grandson. Meanwhile, Mephibosheth, your master's grandson, will always have a place at my table." (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and 20 servants.)

10 Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in the fruits, that thy master's son may have food to eat: but Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread alway at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

- David instructed Ziba and his 15 sons and 20 servants to farm Mephibosheth's land, and bring the produce to David

— Thus, the produce of Mephibosheth's land paid the cost of Mephibosheth's maintenance

— David's provision for Mephibosheth and his letting him eat at the king's table (v7,10-11,13) again demonstrated David's magnanimous heart

When David looked at Mephibosheth, he didn't see a crippled man...he saw Jonathan.

11 Then Ziba said to the king, "In accordance with everything that my lord the king commands his servant, so your servant will do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table as one of the king's sons.

11 Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king commands his servant so your servant will do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table as one of the king's sons.

11 Later, Ziba told the king, "Your servant will do everything that your majesty the king commands him." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table like one of the king's sons.

**11** Then said Ziba unto the king, According to all that my lord the king hath commanded his servant, so shall thy servant do. As for Mephibosheth, said the king, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons.

- David had eaten at Saul's table and it had nearly cost him his life (1 Sam 18:2,11), but Mephibosheth would eat at David's table and his life would be protected

- David extended grace to Mephibosheth for two reasons:

(1) to fulfill his promise to Jonathan

(2) to cement relations with the Benjamites

— David was always careful to show favor to the Benjamites; a generation later, when the kingdom was divided, the Benjamites sided with the Judahites against the 10 other tribes

12 Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Mica. And all who lived in the house of Ziba were servants to Mephibosheth.

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12 Mephibosheth fathered a son named Mica, and everyone who lived in Ziba's house became Mephibosheth's servants.

12 And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Micha. And all that dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants unto Mephibosheth.

- If Mephibosheth was five years old when Jonathan and Saul died on Mt. Gilboa (4:4), he was born in 1016 BC
- When David captured Jerusalem in 1004 BC, he would have been 12 years old
- Now, Mephibosheth had a young son, so he was likely about 20 years old
- This places the event of this chapter at about 966 BC

13 So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he ate at the king's table regularly. And he was disabled in his two feet.

13 So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate at the king's table regularly. Now he was lame in both feet.

13 Mephibosheth continued to live in Jerusalem, always eating at the king's table, since he was maimed in both feet.

13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet.