

D

- **Strike 1** - We started as princes and princesses, created in the image of God without sin!
- **Strike 2** - Our souls are crippled.
- **Strike 3** - We don't live in Lodebar - but we lived in the dry desert where we have "lowered the bar". We live not fighting for shade but fighting for everything else - for me, my and mine.

Vs. 5

- Notice the pursuing nature of David.
- The last thing Mephibosheth wanted to see was an emissary from the king knocking at his door.
- He most likely thought, *This is the end*. It was a whole new beginning!

II. God invites you to be a son, not just a servant

Vs. 6

- For 15-20 years, he has been in hiding with his wife and young son.
- How did Meph view David? He probably blamed him for being crippled. The people probably told him how bad of a guy the king was.
- **He saw the good king in a bad light.**
- Don't live your life thinking God is mad at you!
- See more than guys in bath robes and slippers - this is about you too!
- He expects to be executed. He bows his head expecting a sword to come down on his neck.

vs. 7

- He supported him on a royal pension.
- Eating at his table means providing for his daily needs just like his very son.

vs. 8

- A dead dog is worthless. "You're not a dead dog. You are Meph, the son of Jonathan."

vs. 9-13

- He was to be treated as his own son.
- "15 sons and 20 servants" shows the size of the land given to him.
- **What a picture of grace!**

A

We know the **big names** of the Bible. The Bible is peppered with stories of **ordinary people** that God tells His redemption story through. Today we are going to talk about one of my favorite stories - Mephibosheth.

This story reveals what a great man David was. We usually think of David in connection with his sin.

- **A big white screen and a little black dot.**
- **A field of white sheep and one black sheep.**

There are so many bright spots in David's life.

- Young shepherd boy who slew a giant.
- Old man wise in experience who wrote Ps. 23.

Mephibosheth

- Name appears 13 times in the OT.
- **Read everything about him in about 30 verses.**
- Yet, God weaves an incredible story in his life.

A Picture of Grace

2 Samuel 9

C

Vs. 2

- First mention of Ziba, a servant of Saul.

Vs. 3

- **He is a son of Jonathan (a threat) - strike 1**
- **He is crippled (of no use to you) - strike 2**
- David doesn't say, "how bad is it?" or "how did it happen?"

Vs. 4

- Grace is blind!
- Ziba betrays the hiding place of Mephibosheth.
- Michar was a very wealthy man.
- **He is in Lodebar - strike 3**
- Lobedar was a city in the wilderness where the sun beats down and burns anything that tries to move.
- It means "a place of no peace."
- He left and went escaped to a far country.

B

The first place you meet Meph is in 2 Samuel 4.

- King Saul's grandson, Jonathan's son.
- David is in a battle with Saul. Saul loses the battle and David is about to become king.
- David and Jonathan were good friends. They had make a covenant with each other.
- When the new king took over the people who were loyal to the old king would get out of town.
- One of those people was a five-year-old named Meph. Assuming that King David would be evil, his nurse takes him and they flee. As they are running, she drops him and becomes crippled in both legs. He goes and lives in exile.

This is really 3 quick sermons in one.

I. God invites you to a covenant, not a consumer relationship

2 Sam 9:1

- "kindness" is not being nice. It's showing grace.

The word *grace* means many things:

- A ballet dancer as having grace.
- We say grace at meals.
- The queen of England bringing grace to events she attends.
- **Grace can mean unmerited favor**—extending special favor to someone who doesn't deserve it, who hasn't earned it, and who can never repay it.

David had made a covenant with Jonathan.

We live in a **consumer** society.

- "I will do what I ought to do if you do what you ought to do." (Walmart)
- The goal is satisfaction and comfort - what I get.

That's not what **covenant** is.

- I will do what I ought to do even if you don't.
- In these days, they would take an animal and cut it open. They would walk through.
- God and the ten commandments
- **The issue is not satisfaction, it is relationship.**

H Don't miss this: God looks at you with that "yes" face, "You're in My family. You're as important to Me as all my other sons and daughters."

It will take eternity for us to adequately express what this truth means to us—that He chose us in our sinful and rebellious condition and in grace took us from a barren place and gave us a place at His table.

E Chuck Swindoll paints this picture of mealtime in David's house: The dinner bell rings through the king's palace and David comes to the head of the table and sits down. In a few moments Amnon--clever, crafty Amnon-- sits to the left of David. Lovely and gracious Tamar, a charming and beautiful young woman, arrives and sits beside Amnon. And then across the way, Solomon walks slowly from his study; precocious, brilliant, preoccupied Solomon. The heir apparent slowly sits down. And then Absalom-- handsome, winsome Absalom with beautiful flowing hair, black as a raven, down to his shoulders-- sits down. That particular evening, Joab, the courageous warrior and David's commander of the troops, has been invited to dinner. Muscular, bronzed Joab is seated near the king. Afterward, they wait. They hear the shuffling of feet, the clump, clump, clump of the crutches as Mephibosheth rather awkwardly finds his place at the table and slips into his seat...and the tablecloth covers his feet. I ask you: Did Mephibosheth understand grace?

G **Closing**

Thomas Jefferson was riding horseback cross-country when he and his group came to a river. A traveler waited until several of the party had crossed and then stopped President Jefferson and asked if he would carry him across on his horse. Jefferson pulled him up onto the back of his horse and carried him to the opposite bank. "Tell me," asked one of the men, "why did you select the president to ask this favor of?" "The president?" the man answered. "I didn't know he was the president. All I know is that on some of the faces is written the answer 'no' and on some faces is written the answer 'yes.' His was a 'yes' face."

People who understand grace have a "yes" face. When Mephibosheth looked up, he saw a "yes" written across King David's face. Don't you wish you could have been there at that moment?

F **III. God invites you to discover who you are, not what you get**

16:1-3

- David was forced to flee Jerusalem.
- Ziba lied and said that Meph wanted the throne.
- Watch out for people who bring you gifts, fill your ear, pat you on the back. These same people will lie about you to the king.

16:4

- David made a severe and rash decision that inflicted injury on a true friend.

19:24

- He was in mourning.
- In that culture, if something really important was happening, you wouldn't take care of the external things didn't matter.
- Today if someone is in the middle of crisis, they don't worry about their hair color, etc.
- David turned his back on him and sent him to the poor house, but Mephibosheth stayed true. That's the kind of friend I want!

19:25-28

- Mephibosheth said that he was betrayed but he said, "I am not going to defend myself."
- With humility, "Do with me as you please."

19:29-30

- David either didn't know who to believe or he was too distracted to check the facts.
- This proved Mephibosheth's sincerity.
- He says, "Forget the stuff. My king is back! I don't care about the stuff. I care about him!"
- In a covenant relationship, it's not about what you get - it's about whose you are.
- Our Christian life needs to be about knowing him, not getting what we want.
- **Stuff will give you all that it can, but it's nothing like knowing the king!**