

**Title:** Grace in a Barren Place

**Passage:** 2 Samuel 9

**Introduction:** What comes to your mind when you hear the word “grace”?

- Grace is unmerited favor. It is a real and visible demonstration of unconditional love and acceptance that is not deserved and can never be earned. It is God, in Christ, giving Himself and all of His spiritual riches and blessings in someone who does not deserve it, can never earn it, and will never be able to repay it. (Charles Swindoll)
- God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense
- Why important?
- Everything God has done and is doing is grounded in His grace.
- Lack of understanding of it results in a powerless life.
- 2 Samuel 9 reflects God’s grace (David reflecting Christ)

Romans 15:4

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

- everything in Old Testament provides invaluable truths

**Context of Passage**

A period of King David’s reign of relative peace

- began thinking about his relationship to Jonathan
- friendship in 1 Samuel 18

1 Samuel 18:3-4

Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.

- killed in 1 Samuel 31

1 Samuel 31:6

Thus Saul died, and his three sons, and his armor-bearer, and all his men, on the same day together.

**Question**

2 Samuel 9:1

And David said, “Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?”

- kindness = “hesed” = loving kindness
- grace = “charis” (used 200 times in the Bible)

1 Samuel 20:14-17 (David and Jonathan’s covenant)

If I am still alive, show me the steadfast love of the Lord, that I may not die; and do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever, when the Lord cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth. And Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May the Lord take vengeance on David's enemies.” And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

- David asked not whether someone was worthy but if someone existed from Saul's house.

## **Response**

### 2 Samuel 9:3

And the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?"

Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet."

- "kindness of God" = David viewed his covenant as a commitment before God. A way to reflect the kindness of God.

*crippled in both feet*

### 2 Samuel 4:4

Jonathan, the son of Saul, had a son who was crippled in his feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, and his nurse took him up and fled, and as she fled in her haste, he fell and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.

*location*

### 2 Samuel 9:4

The king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar.

- Lo-debar = a place of desolation, barren fields

*Mephibosheth's retrieval to King David*

### 2 Samuel 9:5-6

Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar. And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, "Mephibosheth!" And he answered, "Behold, I am your servant."

- Mephibosheth understandably feared for his life as descendants of prior king. He was in hiding his whole life.

## **David's promise**

### 2 Samuel 9:7

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

- *Four Key Words:* 1) Protection, 2) Compassion, 3) Provision, 4) Position

*Protection*

- David brings Mephibosheth into his place

*Compassion*

- David showing kindness to Mephibosheth

*Provision*

- restoration of all land to Mephibosheth
- Mephibosheth became more wealthy than he could imagine

*Position*

- Mephibosheth will eat at the king's table regularly

In the Gospel of Jesus Christ, God has done the same for you.

1 John 5:18 (Protection)

We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God *protects* him, and the evil one does not touch him.

1 Thessalonians 1:4 (Compassion)

For we know, brothers *loved* by God, that He has chosen you.

Ephesians 1:3 (Provision)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ *with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places*,

John 15:15 (Position)

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you *friends*, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

### **Mephibosheth's response**

2 Samuel 9:8

And he paid homage and said, "What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?"

### **Fulfillment of Promise**

2 Samuel 9:9-13

Then the king called Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson. And you and your sons and your servants shall till the land for him and shall bring in the produce, that your master's grandson may have bread to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's grandson shall always eat at my table." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king commands his servant, so will your servant do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table, like one of the king's sons. And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Mica. And all who lived in Ziba's house became Mephibosheth's servants. So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate always at the king's table. Now he was lame in both his feet.

- "Now he was lame in both his feet." = reiteration of this fact at close of passage = amazing depth of grace and loving kindness shown
- Someone so weak now elevated to place of great wealth and privilege - now one of the king's sons.

### **Implications**

- we are each like Mephibosheth (helpless and hopeless)
- we are sought out and lifted up because of the loving kindness of the King
- we were spared a life of desolation and isolation
- we are instead given all the blessings and riches of Christ that comes through making Him our Lord and Savior.
- being fully aware of the depth of God's grace is inconsistent with: a critical/complaining attitude or habitual sinning (casual attitude of sin)

### *Contrast*

- Do we forget how much God has done for us in redeeming and saving us?
- Are we critical or complaining?
- Are we continually sinning?
- Do we fail to appreciate the gift of grace?
- Remember the cost of the cross and the riches of God's loving kindness and grace.

### 2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.