

Title: Grace in a Barren Place

Passage: 2 Samuel 9

Summary:

Definition (Charles Swindoll)

- Grace is unmerited favor. A real, 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 His spiritual riches and blessings to someone who does not deserve it, can never earn it, and will never be able to repay it.

Application:

- G.R.A.C.E.
- Give Thanks
- Remember what Christ has done for you
- Ask God to give you a thankful heart
- Confess
- Encourage

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
 - How would you define or explain grace to someone in your own words?
 - How does the story of Mephibosheth echo your own?
 - What is something you can do this coming week to live a more grace-filled life?
 - What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?
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EXPOSITION

Introduction

David

- "A man after God's own heart"
 - Even despite his many sins, God still loved him and described him:

1 Samuel 13:14

But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

Acts 13:22

And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.'

Question:

What comes to your mind when you think of the word grace?

- How would you define or explain grace?

Definition (Charles Swindoll)

- Grace is unmerited favor. A real, 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 His spiritual riches and blessings to someone who does not deserve it, can never earn it, and will never be able to repay it.

Definition

- G.R.A.C.E. = God's Riches At Christ's Expense

Context of Passage:

- David who has fully established his kingdom after all his enemies have been defeated.
 - Now a time of reflection and considering his friendship with Jonathan.
 - See 1 Samuel 13-18 (David and Jonathan's friendship)

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

- from word *hesed*
- Also encompasses grace

Grace

- from word *charis*
- Used more than 200 times in the Bible.

1 Samuel 20:14-17 (prior 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.

- In ancient times, when a new king assumed the throne, it was common practice to kill all of the predecessor's family members.
 - Here, Jonathan asks that his family be spared after David assumes his throne.
 - David accepts and makes the covenant.

Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul

- regardless of who they are, David asks if there is anyone left.

2 Samuel 9:2

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."

- Ziba could have easily been killed given his prior association with the king's predecessor. He came humbly before King David.

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."

that I may show the kindness of God to him

- highest form of grace and mercy: kindness of God.
- In light of the depth and amount of God's kindness shown upon David, David wanted to imitate that very kindness.

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

- Ziba added additional description of Jonathan
 - He didn't have to do so but was an implicit message trying to downplay his potential threat to David's throne

2 Samuel. 4:4 (how he was crippled)

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.

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."

The king said to him, "Where is he?"

- A picture of God's grace.
 - He doesn't see us in light of our weaknesses but rather as simply as we are
- We are saved by faith alone, by grace alone, in Christ alone

He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar."

- Meaning = no pasture

- barren location in hiding.

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 the son of Jonathan, son of Saul

- his lineage clear in relation to David's predecessor.

2 Samuel 9:7 (Heart of the Passage)

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."

for I will show you kindness

- Prior expectation: death by current king because of his lineage with his predecessor.
 - Instead, he receives complete favor

for the sake of your father Jonathan,

- Basis of king's favor is not based in the individual receiving but based on covenant.

I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always."

- Completely overwhelming and unexpected favor from the king.

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?"

- his response was overwhelmed by the kindness shown.

2 Samuel 9:9-11

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."

- King David's directives to show kindness.

2 Samuel 9:12-13

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.

- King David's directives carried out.
- Question: can you imagine what those meals could have been like?
 - King David's children
 - The sounds of Mephibosheth's crippled feet coming to the table as his own.
 - Servants cover his feet as they eat.
- Meaning:
 - Picture of us in Christ.
 - We can receive the fullness of God's blessings not because of anything of our own merit but because of the covenant established through Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:27-28

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 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.

- In trial and in weakness, we find exceptional grace and mercy from God.
 - In the mercy of God, He reveals our weakness so we receive the grace of depending upon Him.

Mephibosheth

- Picture of God's grace.
 - We are crippled by our sin, hiding ourselves in a barren place with no hope.
 - But in God's great love and mercy, God sought us and found us.
 - God not only spared our life but blessed us with a place in His family. At God's table, we can come and fellowship.

Application

G.R.A.C.E.

Give Thanks

- Thank God for His mercy and loving kindness.

Remember what Christ has done for you

- Only time Jesus commanded His disciples was in the Upper Room to remember what it cost Him to give that grace to you.

Ask God to give you a thankful heart

- Not only respond intellectually but also for grace to live and speak thankfully.
 - Ask for a thankful heart.

Confess

- Ask God to bring to your mind sins that needing confessing.
 - Opposite of a grateful heart is a critical spirit (one not grateful for what God has done)
- The tongue is like a bucket that goes into the well of the heart and brings up whatever it finds there.

Encourage

- Find a way to encourage others.