

2 SAMUEL: A PICTURE OF GRACE

Wednesday, March 4

Reading: 2 Samuel 8-9

2 Samuel 9:11 ...So Mephibosheth ate at David's table like one of the king's sons. **13** And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king's table, and he was crippled in both feet.

David was a warrior which is the main reason God would not allow him to build the Temple. God's House was to be built by a man of peace. Nevertheless, David's victories prepared the way for the peace Solomon would enjoy. There are two key phrases in 2 Samuel 8 to describe David's activities. First, "the Lord gave David victory wherever he went" (8:14). David's victory over his enemies was the result of God's judgment on these heathen nations. David finished the job began in the conquest under Joshua. The second important statement is that David was "doing what was just and right for all his people" (8:15). David was a great king who not only ruled wisely but desired to lead his people to the Lord.

Because of God's blessings, David determines to share God's grace. He remembers his promise to his best friend Jonathan (1 Samuel 20:42) and asks if there are any survivors from Saul's family. He is told of a cripple named Mephibosheth who is living in Lo Debar. We read that this son of Jonathan was crippled as a child while trying to escape the Philistine advance after the slaughter on Mount Gilboa (2 Sam. 4:4). Some 15 years had passed and Mephibosheth had been hiding in fear for his life all that time.

When Mephibosheth arrives he falls before David. He probably expected to be killed as a rival to the throne because he is the grandson of King Saul. But David reaches out to him with mercy and grace. He will not die. Instead he will receive all the property that had belonged to his grandfather Saul and he would become part of David's family, eating at the king's table like one of his own sons. Imagine the emotions of Mephibosheth - expecting to die and instead becoming a child of the king. All because of the relationship of his father Jonathan to David. His only response was to proclaim his utter unworthiness.

POINTS TO PONDER:

1. The word "kindness" (9:1) is the Hebrew word *hesed*. It is variously translated as loving kindness, mercy, loyalty, and love. It is defined as "the ability to love people more than they deserve." It is often used of God's love for us! Like Mephibosheth, God's love for us is undeserved. When David looked at Mephibosheth he did not see a cripple or even the grandson of Saul - David saw his friend Jonathan. So when God looks at us He does not see us as sinners; He sees His Son who died in our place. We are all "crippled" by sin but God in His mercy and kindness makes us children of the King when we accept Christ as Savior. Have you experienced God's 'hesed' in your life?
2. David had been greatly blessed by God and he desired to share that blessing with others. Is this the desire of your heart? God has richly blessed us but we often hoard these blessing for ourselves when God gave them so that we might be a blessing to others. What can you do today to show God's grace to someone else?

READ THE NT: Luke 12