

Dining at the King's Table



2 Samuel 9

I hope everybody has had a Merry Christmas and you've enjoyed this past week. I know for me personally, this Christmas was a big deal. We got to celebrate with my family on the 23rd, the 24th, and the 25th. As we had these meals all three days, it was a big deal for me because I was at the big table. Some of you know that our family has different tables in our house. For years, our family for as long as I can remember, people want to know what table they're going to be sitting at. All my life I've been sitting at the kid's table. The kid's table, if you want to know something about what that's like, is absolute chaos. My grandmother had all the cousins, my brother, and myself start drinking Dr. Pepper when we were about one or two. We're all addicted to Dr. Pepper. So about one or two drinks will be spilled by accident and one or two on purpose just to get a good laugh. There could be food being thrown. There are dogs in the house that are just roaming around the kid's table looking for scraps. In fact, this past year at the kid's table, I think the dog got on the table a couple of different times. It's just chaos. But then, when you get to the big table it's different. Our family goes all out at the big table. This is no exaggeration; the china is out. We have all these forks, knives, these fancy napkins, and get this. Each person has their own nametag written in this fancy cursive for where your seat is. So I sit down, no longer all the chaos, no dogs barking; it is awesome. Here I am at the big table! One of the things I love about the big table is that it's peaceful. We're in a separate room from the kids, so even though there is chaos, (there may be a bomb being dropped in the other room) we're able to have a nice conversation. It's nice; it's great. We're enjoying this food, everything is great, it's wonderful, and I'm with

my cousins. I'm with my brother and his wife. I'm with my mom and dad. I'm with family. We can just take a few moments just to catch up. One of the things I've noticed about being at the big table as the conversation flows is there are three big things.

1. Where have you been?

Where have we been as a family? There are going to be certain stories told at the big table that everybody knows the story. Everybody knows the punchline to the story, and we're all still going to hear that story and laugh at that story. You might not think it is funny, but we think it's funny.

2. Then we're also going to talk about where we are.

Where are you right now; what is going on in life? I had one cousin who is pregnant and they are going to have their first child. They are talking about where they are right now and what is going on.

3. We also always talk about where you are going.

How long are you going to stay in this location? Are you planning on moving? How many kids are you going to have? All these different questions.

In the midst of the food, in the midst of the chaos, in the midst of the kids, in the midst of all the commotion in the house, we're all catching naps, and we're thinking about these three questions. Where have we been? Where are we? Where are we going?

Today I don't want to focus on the big table. I want to focus on the king's table and what it is like to dine with King Jesus. What I mean by that, and there are a few goals that we want to accomplish today as we talk about dining with King Jesus. One is that you're motivated; you're encouraged to come back tonight to the Lord Supper and see the symbolism of what it pictures and what it represents. Two is as we enter in to 2019 that you take some time to reflect, as you have this personal, intimate relationship with Christ, of where you have been, where you are, and where you're going. To do that, we're going to be looking at the book of 2 Samuel and spending most of our time on chapter 9. We will be looking at two separate

individuals in particular. We are going to be looking at King David and Mephibosheth. Stand with me as we read the entire chapter of 2 Samuel 9.

Scripture

"And David said, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" 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." 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." 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." 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." 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." And he paid homage and said, "What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?"

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."

(Prayer)

Father, we come to you and pray this will be a time of reflection where we think about where we've been and where we are and where we're going, and how blessed we are only by Your grace that we're able to dine with Your Son Jesus. We ask these things in Jesus name, amen.

Let's talk about the context of this passage where we first see David. Now who is David? We see in 1 Samuel chapter 16 that Samuel the prophet and called by God to find a king from Jesse's house. So he goes to Jesse's house and Jesse starts presenting son after son after son. After each son passes, Samuel says no, that's not the one. That's not the one...that's not the one. After Samuel meets seven sons, he finally asks if there is anyone else. Jesse says yes, there's one and he's tending the sheep. That's King David, the last of the sons. Here he is chosen by God to be the king. But his journey to be the king is difficult. You had the battle of David and Goliath, which was glorious, but then Saul, the king at the time, doesn't want David to be king, so David has to hide. He has to hide in caves. It's a hard and difficult role for David to be king, but he eventually gets there. In 2 Samuel chapter 7, a covenant is made with David that through David's offspring, through David's line, there will a king that will be everlasting. This leads into 2 Samuel chapter 8 where David is having victory after victory after victory. As king, he's expanding the nation of Israel. It goes from six thousand square miles to sixty thousand square miles. He is becoming more prosperous and more powerful by the day. Then we pick up in 2 Samuel 9 and King David is asking this question: "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul...?" Usually when this question is asked, it's not good for people of the house of Saul. The king, to protect his own kingdom, wants to destroy anyone of the former kingdom, especially the offspring. So this question is normally asked, the king would be normally asking to go find the offspring of the former king to kill the offspring of the former king. But David is asking that question for a different motive, a

different reason. He says, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" So what he is basically doing is remembering in the midst of all David's success, he looks back and remembers a covenant he has made with Jonathan. In 1 Samuel 20, when Saul is searching and trying to seek out and kill David, Saul' son, Jonathan, makes a covenant with David...Jonathan, believing David will be the king of Israel one day. David, in this covenant, says he will take care of Jonathan and his family. Jonathan and Saul have all died in war, and now after David has become king, he remembers and reflects back to the covenant he has made with Jonathan, and he wants to take care of Jonathan's family. So he asked if there was anyone left of the house of Saul, for the sake of Jonathan.

Then David came upon a servant named Ziba. In verse, 3, David asked of that servant, ""Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?" Ziba said there is still a son of Jonathan. There is still one. What's the first thing he says? He is crippled in his feet. We learn about this one son. The first thing you learn about him is the last thing you learn about him as well in this story. It says he is crippled in his feet, and the chapter ends. The very last thing at the end of this chapter say he was lame in both of his feet. So this son of Jonathan...what did we learn? He is physically handicapped. What does that mean during this time period? He is helpless. We have things in our culture today that can help people with disabilities, but not back then. He literally has no hope at all based on his physical condition. What else do we know? There's a lot of thought during this time period that if you had a disability, people could believe your disability occurred because of you sin or your parent's sin. We see this later on in the New Testament in John chapter 9. Jesus heals the blind man. The question is asked, and Jesus clears this up, is this man born blind because of his sin or his parent's sin? Jesus says it's not because of either. But still, there's the through. Now this man, this son of Jonathan is hopeless because of his physical condition, but not just because of his physical condition, but people look upon him and see someone that is spiritually a wreck.

We continue to go on. The king said where is he, and Ziba said, "He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar." Where is Lo-debar? It's in the wilderness in the middle of nowhere. He's probably isolated and alone, and in fear that if King David finds him, he will be killed. Then, we finally get the son's name in verse 6, "And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David, and fell on his face..." What does Mephibosheth mean? It means shame. Imagine this life, you're physically handicapped, you spiritually feel worthless, you are putting blame on yourself for your own physical condition, you're isolated and lonely, fearing for your life. Every time you write out your name, you're literally spelling shame. Now here you are in the wilderness and you see a king's troops, and they're coming for you. What's he thinking, what's he feeling; realizing the thought would be they're going to kill me at any instant.

They get him and bring him to David. What does David say to him? Verse 7 says, "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." I love this. Here this man who was once poor now has a king's inheritance. Here this man who now has the worst reputation is now sitting at the king's table. What's his response in verse 8? Mephibosheth says, "And he paid homage and said, "What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?" Do you know what I love about this? No matter where you are, when you look back upon your life, no matter what sin you've committed or what's been done to you, there is hope. One of the things I see is sometimes people will come to me and they look back upon their past and their condition, and there is so much shame in their life based on whatever the event might have been that they can't even verbally say it. All they can do is write it down on a piece of paper and they will literally pass it to me to tell me their situation. The hope to that person, and if you're that person in this room is that you can come to the king's table. There's a king that's asking for you this morning. Where are you? There's a king that's sending his army saying come to him. He wants to tell you do not fear; I will give you my kingdom and I will allow you to sit at my table, always. That is our hope. It's not just for that person who feels so much shame for a past sin; it's for each and every single one of us. As Christians, we always need to

remember, we need to always reflect and remember what Jesus Christ has done for us and how He has saved us because without Christ, we are lame. Without Christ, we are crippled. Without Christ, we have nothing but shame in our lives. Without Christ, we are dead dogs. But through Christ and in Christ, with what He has done for us on the cross, we now have a new identity. We are now new creations in Christ. We are now able to be with Him always, every single day. We never ever need to forget the grace that has been given to us on the cross of Jesus Christ. That should affect the way we live each and every single day of how we give grace to others.

That leads into the second point. We don't just remember where we've been, but we need to focus on where are you. So today, where are you? Where are you? I think there are two realities of where we are. If you are a Christian, you are with King Jesus. King Jesus, the Holy Spirit is in you, and you are a part of His kingdom. But let me say this as well, where are you? You are in a sinful, fallen world. There are two realities. We are called right now as Christians to enjoy King Jesus, but we're also called to fight. There's a battle that is still going on. We look back through the life of King David. He is king. There is a covenant that has been made, but he still has to fight. But the problem with King David, even though he's still the king, is he quits fighting and it leads into so much danger and disaster. Let's turn to 2 Samuel chapter 11. In the midst of all the victories and everything great that is going on, what does David do? In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David doesn't go. David sent Joab and his servants with him and all of Israel. "And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" When he asked about the woman, there are two things that are said; this woman is somebody's daughter, this woman is somebody's wife. What does he do? He continues to go on, "So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I

am pregnant.” David commits this sin of adultery, which leads to the death of his son. It leads into incest, rape, murder, and a son going against his father. It’s just an absolute downward spiral. Yes, David still has the covenant, but the disaster, the consequences that come are just amazing. Can you imagine losing a son? Can you imagine your daughter being raped by one of your sons? Can you imagine a son ripping away your kingdom and experiencing all these things? The question I would have liked to ask David after he experienced all of these events is what would you do to go back on that afternoon instead of taking a nap on a rooftop to be in a battle with your troops? What would you do just to go back there one afternoon? What would you do?

Here's the point. Some of us might be in the same exact situation. When the commentaries are read, they compared David being on the rooftop to a man at 12 o'clock at night surfing the internet. What are you doing? Are you not fighting? Somebody in this room right now could be getting ready to make a sin that you will forever regret. It's going to affect your spouse, your children, your church, and your community because you're not fighting, because you're just comfortable on a rooftop taking a nap with your walk with God. You're going to come back a year from now, when you've seen the consequences, when you've seen the damage done to your spouse, to your children, that's done to different people, and you would do anything a year from now just to go back and wake up from your nap and fight. You see, as Christians, we have freedom in Christ, but there should be a healthy fear that Satan has arrows getting ready to launch at us. The question is do we have our shields up? If we don't, we might be getting ready to fall hard. One of the things I try to do when I'm fighting sin is to have a fear, but I want to have the freedom in Christ. I start thinking about key people in my life. I start thinking if I'm tempted to lust, tempted with pride, tempted with anger, tempted to say something stupid, I literally, sometimes this is short and sometimes it is drawn out, but I literally start thinking about key people in my life. I first start thinking about people that I have discipled. I see some of them right now, and I start literally visualizing their faces, and I think I am not going to fall for Logan, I'm not going to fall for Christian, I'm not going to fall for Jessie, I'm not going to fall for Justin. No, I've led them; I'm not going to fall for

them. Then I go right to my children. I start visualizing Graham, Brax, and Hannah, my children. No, no, I want to be the man that Hannah can look up to and see this godly influence. I want my godly boys to see a godly man. Then I go to my wife and I start thinking about Brandy. I am called in this relationship to picture Christ. I'm called to lead her like Christ leads and loves the church. No, I love her too much. I can't do it; I can't do it! I'm not going to say it. I'm not going to do it, no! But the ultimate reality is I go to the Lord. I love the Lord and I don't want to sin against Him. But can I be honest? I don't want to be robbed of joy because I know no matter how much it might feel good to be on that rooftop for just a brief moment, it's absolutely nothing compared to knowing Jesus and the joy I have of being with Him. I want nothing to rob me of my intimacy of being with my king. The more I realize and understand who my king is I have this freedom to fight this sin because I know my king has overcome the sin. I know He is with me and in me, and no matter how difficult the sin might be at the moment, I can have victory, not based on me, but based on Him in me. When I start really thinking about my freedom, all of a sudden, it's worth the fight. The question is where are you right now? Are you laying on the couch taking a nap with your walk with God? If you are, you might be getting ready to fall really, really hard. Come to His table and dine, but fight so you can dine at His table.

This leads into the third question. Where are you going? Can I be honest? I love this church. I do. I have students who graduate and say I miss Hardin. I know; it's pretty amazing. I go take seminary classes sometimes and I hear about these amazing churches, and I think there's nothing compared to Hardin. I'm just humbled to be at this church. I can't believe I'm at this church. I mean, are you kidding me? The senior pastor has mentored and disciplined me since I've been 18 or 19 years old. He's like a father to me. By the way, the associate pastor, his son, is literally like a brother to me. That's who I get to work with. I think about all the friend, people, the brothers and sisters in Christ I just love and cherish, and the relationships I have with the people. When I take the Lord's Supper, I sometimes look around and think are you kidding me; this is the church I get to be a part of. It's amazing. It's like this joy and humility comes over me that I get to work here. I get to be a part of this church. It's awesome to get to dine

with you all! Can I be honest as well? Boy, I still feel the marks of a sinful fallen world. There are times I come into this building and even though I'm washed, even though I'm made new, even though I'm a new creation in Christ, I still feel the weight of sin. I still feel pressure. I still feel defeated. I still feel discouraged. I still feel like I've got marks on me. When I go back to 2 Samuel chapter 9 and look at Mephibosheth, I have wonder, my imagination takes off...what would it be like for him to be at that table? This is before all the bad stuff with Bathsheba. What would it be like for him to be at that table? That now, based on what the grace the king has given him, he gets to eat at the king's table every single day. Get this...here he comes, Absalom, this strong, good-looking young man, here comes Tamar. We know Tamar is a beautiful, stunning, and she sits down at the table. You've got this guy who is reading these books all the time named Solomon. He's just full of knowledge, so he's going to be so wise one day. Then you've got all of David's mighty men around the table that had so many of these major victories in battle. They had all this strength and courage to fight for the nation of Israel. Here they all are, all at this king's table. Then you see this man barely able to move, crippled, sitting at the table, and he's seen as one of them. He's seen as a son, no different despite his situation. But do you know what's hard on him? Even though he's eating at a king's table like one of the sons, he looks down at his feet and he's still crippled. He's lame.

When I think about this, I'm reminded of another story in the Scriptures, Matthew chapter 8, the faith of the centurion. Let's read that, beginning in verse 5. "When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, 6 "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home..." So the centurion is saying my servant is paralyzed. He's "suffering terribly. And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith." I love this next verse, "I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline

at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." So those who don't have faith...they're going to hell. But here's the reality...those who do have faith are healed. They're healed. This is showing the future reality that even though this man is crippled, he is now healed. His servant is now healed. Because of this centurion's faith, he gets to recline at table. He gets to be with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

This points me to the end of the Bible. What are some of the very last things that Jesus says? Turn to the last chapter of Scripture in Revelation. He said remember what was said to David in 2 Samuel chapter 7. There will be a king that will be everlasting. In Revelation 22:16, it says, "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." Verse 20 says, "Surely I am coming soon." The last thing Jesus says is that He is the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant. He is the King, and by him being king, and in Revelation 19, we realize He is setting up a table. He's setting up a marriage supper. He's setting up a feast invited for the bride, invited for the church. So get this...there will be another King's table, and in that king's table, if you are a Christian you will be there. This is what I love. What will it be like to be at that table? Who will be there?

I think about the big table at the Lawrence household. They told a story about my great-grandmother this week. When my aunt started dating my uncle, one of the very first things my great-grandmother asked my aunt was are you a Christian. I love that. She died when I was six years old. I barely remember her. I remember her, but barely. It was this old lady. I think back to my grandmother. When I was in the eighth grade, my grandmother wrote me a fifteen-page note on the importance of reading Scripture and gave me my very first Bible. One of my last memories of her was her dying of Alzheimer's. I think about my Aunt Jane dying of cancer, not very much older than what I am right now. I think about being at that table with them. But do you know what's different? There is no more Alzheimer's. There's no more cancer. There's no more old age. There are no more marks of a sinful fallen world, and I can communicate to my

family, to Abraham, to Isaac, and Jacob and be marveled that I'm there without sin. We can have conversation of where they've been, where they are, and where they're going. As we have these conversations, I just picture this without no marks, no more crippled feet, no more shame; we look towards the king who bears the marks for us. I long for that day. I long to see certain people and I long to see King Jesus without the curse of sin. When I think about where we are going that reflects on where we have been, I'm so much more thankful for what He did for me at the cross. I'm so much more thankful He took someone who is crippled, someone who is insecure; someone as lame as myself that is full of shame. He took me, a dead dog with Adam, and has now saved me, now is with me, and has a spot for me at His table forever! The more we understand that, the more it affects the way we fight right now. I don't want anything to get in the way of my spot. I want to continue to put my faith and trust and enjoy my relationship with Jesus all at the same time, fighting battle after battle with sin in this fallen world, longing to be at that table.

Where are you this morning? Where are you? what I want to challenge you is if there are people in this room right now that feel like you can't be used by God because of past sin, if there are people who might not be a believer in Christ because you look at your past and think there's absolutely no way in the world God could ever save me because (just fill in the blank). No matter how much shame you have, I'm here to tell you that you have a God who's inviting you to His table and saying come, eat, enjoy My inheritance, and you will no longer be known by your past sin, but known as one of My sons. There's going to be somebody in this room right now who is getting ready to fall off the cliff of sin, and I'm telling you right now to fight, fight. You have Christ in you and you can have victory, and it will be worth it. It will be worth it one day when you're sitting at that table with Him. Focus on that table to come. Wherever you are this morning, my hope and prayer is that you look and long towards 2019. You can think about all the things you want to do. You can have a one-year plan. I talked to somebody this week that had a five-year business plan. We don't need to have a five-year business plan, let's have a fifty million year business plan, a five hundred million year business plan, a fifty billion year business plan as we focus and reflect, thinking what is to come. The more we think

about that, my prayer is the more we fall in love with our king and who we are in Him.