

A Kingdom Of Kindness (2 Sam. 9, 10)**To Show The Kindness Of God (2 Sam. 9:1-5)**

1 Now David said, “Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake?” 2 And there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, “Are you Ziba?” He said, “At your service!” 3 Then the king said, “Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?” And Ziba said to the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan who is lame in his feet.” 4 So the king said to him, “Where is he?” And Ziba said to the king, “Indeed he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar.” 5 Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar.

- David now wishes to show the mercies he had known to the family of Jonathan.
- *“And you shall not only show me the kindness of the Lord while I still live, that I may not die; but you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the Lord has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.” (1 Sam. 20:14-15)*
- There was nothing to gain from treating Mephibosheth kindly, but only risk.
- David wishes to show him the mercy of God, or *chesed*: God’s faithful, covenant love. It’s God actively showing His undeserved favor to the people He loves. *Chesed* is part of His Divine Character.
- Many familiar passages feature *chesed*: Ex. 34:6; Ruth 3:10; 2 Sam. 7:15; Ps. 23:6; *“...Thy lovingkindness (Thy chesed) is better than life...” (Ps. 63:3).*

- We don't know when these events happened.
- Mephibosheth was living in Lo Debar, across the Jordan. Lo Debar, may mean "no thing" in Hebrew, which completes the picture for us.
- We don't know why Machir was helping Mephibosheth. Maybe Machir was simply generous. Later on, we will find Machir helping David.

Grace To A Dead Dog (2 Sam. 9: 6-8)

6 Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, "Mephibosheth?" And he answered, "Here is your servant!" 7 So David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually." 8 Then he bowed himself, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?"

- Notice that Mephibosheth was more humble than Ziba. It would have been completely natural for Mephibosheth to display great fear in this situation.
- But David, having received mercy from God, could also display it to others.
- Mephibosheth calls himself a "dead dog," as David had once done, too.

David's Display Of Grace (2 Sam. 9:9-13)

9 And the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house. 10 You therefore, and your sons and your servants, shall work the land for him, and you shall bring in the harvest, that your master's son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's

son shall eat bread at my table always.” Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. 11 Then Ziba said to the king, “According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will your servant do.” “As for Mephibosheth,” said the king, “he shall eat at my table like one of the king’s sons.” 12 Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Micha. And all who dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants of Mephibosheth. 13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king’s table. And he was lame in both his feet.

- Ziba was probably the steward, a servant who managed the household affairs of the family. A steward occupied an important position in the family.
- Extremely prosperous, Ziba has 15 sons and 20 servants. This may be a clue that he is wealthy and greedy.
- We learn later on that Saul still has some other living relatives.

David’s graciousness, his *chesed*, towards Mephibosheth, is a beautiful picture of the grace of God in Jesus Christ to us.

1. Remember that Mephibosheth did nothing to deserve this mercy.
2. Mephibosheth was lame, but David made him capable.
3. Mephibosheth means "mouth of shame," but David took his shame away and brought him out of a place called Nowhere!
4. He also experiences the restoration of his heritage.
5. He gets to enjoy the king's presence.
6. He also gets to enjoy the king's provision, feeding at his table.

7. Mephibosheth now also enjoys David's protection.
8. Finally, he enjoys the status of a prince, experiencing the king's permanent favor.

This is how God reversed our fortunes! We are now accepted in the beloved. (Eph. 1:6)

The Ammonites Humiliate David's Ambassadors (2 Sam. 10:1-5)

1 It happened after this that the king of the people of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his place. 2 Then David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father showed kindness to me." So David sent by the hand of his servants to comfort him concerning his father. And David's servants came into the land of the people of Ammon. 3 And the princes of the people of Ammon said to Hanun their lord, "Do you think that David really honors your father because he has sent comforters to you? Has David not rather sent his servants to you to search the city, to spy it out, and to overthrow it?" 4 Therefore Hanun took David's servants, shaved off half of their beards, cut off their garments in the middle, at their buttocks, and sent them away. 5 When they told David, he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, "Wait at Jericho until your beards have grown, and then return."

- David tries to extend kindness again, but now he will have to cover the shame of others, because he will be dealing with people who inflict shame on others.
- The Ammonites lived on the other side of the Jordan River. They were frequent enemies of Israel. They represent the Devil's work against believers.
- The Ammonites are all about inflicting shame. Remember how Nahash tried to get some of the people of Israel to surrender to him. He would spare their lives if they agreed to have one of their eyes put out as a mark of reproach or disgrace.

- Hanun (*Chanun*) means gracious, but he was anything but. The giving and receiving of advice will become a very important idea for the rest of Samuel.
- Having your beard marred was a tremendous shame – it was “fighting words!”

The Ammonites Hire The Syrians (2 Sam. 10:6-8)

6 When the people of Ammon saw that they had made themselves repulsive to David, the people of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Beth Rehob and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand foot soldiers; and from the king of Maacah one thousand men, and from Ish-Tob twelve thousand men. 7 Now when David heard of it, he sent Joab and all the army of the mighty men. 8 Then the people of Ammon came out and put themselves in battle array at the entrance of the gate. And the Syrians of Zoba, Beth Rehob, Ish-Tob, and Maacah were by themselves in the field.

- The Arameans lived in what is now Syria, up towards the Euphrates River.
- By now this time David had developed a large standing army.
- The city is most likely Rabbah, or Rabbath-Ammon, which means the great city or capital city of Ammon. This city represents the capital of the Devil’s kingdom.

The Ammonites And Syrians Flee (2 Sam. 10:9-14)

9 When Joab saw that the battle line was against him before and behind, he chose some of Israel’s best and put them in battle array against the Syrians. 10 And the rest of the people he put under the command of Abishai his brother, that he might set them in battle array against the people of Ammon. 11 Then he said, “If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me; but if the people of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will come and help you. 12 Be of good courage, and let us be strong for our people and for the cities of our God. And may the LORD do what is good in His sight.”

13 So Joab and the people who were with him drew near for the battle against the Syrians, and they fled before him. 14 When the people of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fleeing, they also fled before Abishai, and entered the city. So Joab returned from the people of Ammon and went to Jerusalem.

- The Syrians take off running and the Ammonites retreat into their city.

David Defeats A Massed Syrian Army (2 Sam. 10:15-19)

15 When the Syrians saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they gathered together. 16 Then Hadadezer sent and brought out the Syrians who were beyond the River, and they came to Helam. And Shobach the commander of Hadadezer's army went before them. 17 When it was told David, he gathered all Israel, crossed over the Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Syrians set themselves in battle array against David and fought with him. 18 Then the Syrians fled before Israel; and David killed seven hundred charioteers and forty thousand horsemen of the Syrians, and struck Shobach the commander of their army, who died there. 19 And when all the kings who were servants to Hadadezer saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and served them. So the Syrians were afraid to help the people of Ammon anymore.

- Hadadezer's name means "Hadad is my help."
- This time, David gathers all the able-bodied men. The result is another stunning victory, with a huge casualty count.
- The small Syrian kings submitted to David and began to pay him tribute.

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