

## DEMONSTRATE KINDNESS

2 Samuel 9:1-13

**THIS LESSON:** God expects His people to seek opportunities to show kindness to others, and to follow through on those opportunities.

**BACKGROUND:** “The kindness of God” is the theme in this chapter and it means the mercy and favor of the Lord to undeserving people.

Paul saw the kindness of God in the coming of Jesus Christ and His work on the cross (Titus 3:1–7 [3:4]; Eph. 2:1–9 [2:7]), and we see in David’s dealings with Mephibosheth a picture of God’s kindness to lost sinners.

David had promised both Saul and Jonathan that he would not exterminate their descendants when he became king, and in the case of Jonathan’s son Mephibosheth, David not only kept his promise but went above and beyond the call of duty.

David at this point had been on the throne for 15 years. Why do you think jarred David’s memory to turn his thought toward his dear friend Jonathan. “ARE THERE ANY SURVIVORS FROM SAUL’S FAMILY TO WHO I CAN SHOW KINDESS?”

In O.T. times if a king from a different family came into power – the new king would kill all the relatives for the previous king in order to stop any rival.

### **DETERMINE TO SHOW KINDNESS (2 Sam 9:1-3)**

Vs. 1-3-7 The Hebrew word HESED is translated kindness in the O.T. That is much like the word agape in the N.T.

David’s motivation for seeking Mephibosheth was not the sad plight of the crippled man but David’s desire to honor Jonathan, the father.

He did what he did “for Jonathan’s sake” (1 Sam. 20:11–17). Mephibosheth was five years old when his father died in battle (4:4), so he was now about twenty- one years old and had a young son of his own David couldn’t show any love or kindness to Jonathan, so he looked for one of Jonathan’s relatives to whom he could express his affection.

So it is with God’s children: they are called and saved, not because they deserve any- thing from God, but for the sake of God’s Son, Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:6; 4:32).

Application:

1 - God in His grace gives us what we don’t deserve, and in His mercy doesn’t give us what we do deserve.

2 – Kindness is one of God’s measures of success

3 – Kindness is a sign of loyalty to people and to promises of God

### **SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOW KINDNESS (2 Sam 9:4-6)**

David found out where Mephibosheth was living by asking Ziba, who served as an “estate manager” for Saul.

Vs.4 - Lo-debar means “PASTURE LESS PLACE” this place was only rocks and sand. It was a terrible place to live.

Question: Why did he live in such a desolate place?

(He no doubt feared the new king)

What were the lame prince's thoughts when the summons came to appear before the king?

If he believed what his grand- father had said about David, he would have feared for his life, but if he had listened to what his father told him about David, he would have rejoiced. Someone had to help the young man to the palace, where he fell before David—something difficult for a person with crippled legs—and acknowledged his own unworthiness. The king spoke his name and immediately assured him that there was nothing to fear.

Mephibosheth means “SHAMEFUL BREATH” – this means likely he had asthma or some other breathing ailment. On top of that he was lame.

2 Sam 4 tells us that when Saul and Jonathan died on Mount Gilboa, Mephibosheth was 5 years old. His nanny scooped him up to rush him to safety, but in her haste she tripped. Mephibosheth fell to the ground, apparently the fall injured his spinal cord.

Application: Sometimes people feel they are suffocated spiritually – in a dry place – unable to make any progress..... then we are dropped.

Some come from a broken home and feel dropped  
Some get fired from a job and feel dropped.

Personal – Many people we come into contact with has a story of being let down. We need to remember when we deal with people not to be too critical because we don't know what their story is. Our Heavenly father knows our story and is calling us from the pastureless place and send a messenger to us. His name is Jesus !!

David then unofficially “adopted” Mephibosheth by restoring to him the land that his father, Jonathan, would have inherited from Saul, and then by inviting him to live at the palace and eat at the king's table.

The fact that David made the first move to rescue Mephibosheth reminds us that it was God who reached out to us and not we who sought Him. We were estranged from God and enemies of God, yet He loved us and sent His Son to die for us.

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).

### **PRACTICE KINDNESS (2 Sam 9:7-13)**

David took him into his own family, provided for him, protected him, and let him eat at his own table. It wouldn't be easy to care for a grown man who was lame in both feet, but David promised to do so.

Vs. 7 - Fear Not – Don't be afraid .... It is not what you think.

Personal – Many time I get into a tight place. My mind is full of things that I believe will go wrong. Most of the times it is not what I thing it is going to be.

David's words “eat at my table” are found four times in the passage (vv. 7, 10, 11, 13) and indicate that Jonathan's son would be treated like David's son.

### Application.

1 - Mephibosheth looked upon himself as a “dead dog” (v. 8), and we were “dead” in our trespasses and sins when Jesus called us and gave us new life (Eph. 2:1–6).

2 - We have a higher position than that which David gave Mephibosheth, for we sit on the throne with Jesus Christ and reign in life through Him.

3 - God gives us the riches of His mercy and grace and “unsearchable riches” in Christ (Eph. 3:8).

4 - God supplies all our needs, not out of an earthly king’s treasury, but according to “his riches in glory” (Phil. 4:19).

5 - Mephibosheth lived the rest of his life in the earthly Jerusalem (v. 13), but God’s children today are already citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, where they will dwell forever with the Lord.

This touching event in the life of David not only illustrates the believer’s spiritual experience in Christ, but it also reveals to us that David was indeed a man after God’s own heart (1 Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22). He was a shepherd who had a special concern for the lame sheep in the flock.

Mephibosheth is a difficult name to remember and pronounce, but he reminds us of some wonderful truths about “the kindness of God” shown to us through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

We are cripple people, We are lame, We are spending too much time in a pastureless place.

We have been invited to dine as His sons at the table of the King.

The question is , will we.

The Lord calls us just as we are to come and dine.

The Heavenly Father has a table that is only for the lame and outcast to come and the good news is we don’t have to stay in our lame – twisted place.

**BECAUSE OF WHAT OUR LORD HAS DONE FOR US WHAT SHOULD BE OUR RESPONSE TO OTHERS THAT ARE IN TROUBLE?**