

Grace from the Throne

II Samuel 9:1-13

Opening Prayer

Before I get started, lets refresh your memory of what's going on here. King Saul and his son Jonathon have both died in battle (I Samuel 31), leaving David as uncontested king of Israel. King David wants to honor the pact he made with his dear friend Jonathon back in *I Samuel 20:42 And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city.* This agreement basically meant that David would not kill Saul's or Jonathon's descendents when he came into power. You need to also remember that David and Jonathon were very close friends, they loved one another dearly, *2Sam 1:26 I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women*

Here we have a loving relationship established along with a promise. So from this love and in honor of their agreement comes David's question of whether there are any kin of Saul left alive.

What we should be able to see from this passage of Scripture, is the marvelous grace that God has bestowed upon every sinner, the mercy He has shown each and everyone of us, and the wonderful inheritance God has given us because of His slain son, Jesus Christ. We can see this thru the actions of King David towards Mephibosheth, who represents us, the sinner. We should be able to see the mercy & favor of the Lord upon undeserving people like you and me. That He loves us and desires a relationship with us and wants to show kindness to lost sinners, just like you and just like me. Keep this in mind as we discuss these verses.

V1-4 When David asks in v1 Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, a servant named Ziba points out a son of Jonathon's yet lived, that he was located in Lodebar and that he was lame on his feet. This young man's name was Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth became lame or physically disabled at a young age *II Samuel 4:4 And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.,* he was made lame because he had a fall. Now can't we say we are all maimed/disabled because of a fall, of a fall that goes back to the beginning, of the fall of man, when Adam and Eve sinned in the garden and the human race has been impaired ever since.

*Ro 5:12 Wherefore, as by **one man sin entered into the world**, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

Ro 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

This was nothing Mephibosheth could have helped, it is nothing we can help. We are all in a hopeless situation as sinners, Mephibosheth had no hope of ever walking. And here he was living in Lodebar. Do you know what Lodebar means? It means a place without pasture, or a house without bread. As sinners we should be able to relate to this place.

There is no rest/comfort without a pasture but *Ps 23:2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.* And in a place with no bread a person goes hungry, there is no sustenance. *Joh 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*

So here is Mephibosheth, no hope, no family, no legs, living in hiding and he didn't personally know the king. He was totally out in the world and nothing but a dark future to look ahead to. Just like us when we are sinners, we don't know the King and we are not part of His family, we have no hope, we have no promise, we are utterly doomed, doomed to spend an eternity in the lake of fire, we have no rest, no sustenance, no life.

To make matters worse, Mephibosheth was afraid for his life. It was worldly tradition in that day & time when a new king came to power that he would put to death or banish any descendants of the old king. So I'm sure Mephibosheth was hiding from King David, afraid that his miserable life might come to an abrupt end. Then he gets summoned to the king.

V5-6 You can only imagine what was passing thru Mephibosheth's mind as he was escorted to Jerusalem, he's had a hard life already, his grandfather is dead, his father is dead, he can't walk and now he thinks he is going to his own death, thinking all the way "hes gonna kill me, hes gonna kill me, please don't let him kill me". What does Mephibosheth do when he stands before King David, he falls on his face and reveres him, he shows respect to king, he throws himself at the mercy of the king. Something we'll all do one day when we stand before God either at the Judgment Seat of Christ or if you are not saved the Great White Throne judgment *Ro 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.* If you met God now would you be ready? Would you be ready to face Him? Would you be worried about being sent to an eternal death or do you know that you know that you know, that you are saved? Mephibosheth made the right decision, humbling himself before the king, just as we come to the point in life when we realize this is real and the only hope we have is to bow before the King of Kings. Mephibosheth wasn't sure what was going to happen but you can be.. Mephibosheth was afraid but you don't have to be. Mephibosheth thought he was going to die but you don't have to.

I like the fact that King David sought and found Mephibosheth. He sent and fetched him out of this place where there was no pasture and from this place where there was no bread. Mephibosheth needed help to come to the king because he was lame. We didn't go out and find God, we didn't choose to be saved, God came and found us, He sought us, He bought us. I was lost but now I'm found, I was blind but now I see. God reached down and touched me, He put those big ol loving arms around me and told me I'm His and no one can snatch me away. He had to because I was a sinner, I was lame, I was utterly without hope.

In v6 the King calls him by His name, Mephibosheth! And he answered "behold thy servant". I'm so glad He called me by name one day. He is a personal God and He calls each of us personally, by name. Oh, how we should answer our king with this response, to say yes Lord whatever you want me to do, here am I, send me. I'm willing Lord, I'm at your beck and call, just like when Paul met Christ, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

V7 In v7 King David surprises Mephibosheth, he says to "fear not for I will surely show thee kindness for Jonathon thy father's sake". Mephibosheth now has nothing to fear, and if we accept God's gracious offering we have no more fear of death nor the grave for we have the promise of life

1Jo 2:25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.

1Cor 15:55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

*2Tim 1:7 **For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.***

Mephibosheth is exalted/raised up because of another. The king is going to show Mephibosheth kindness for someone else's sake, someone that the king truly loved, his beloved friend Jonathon. Jonathon means a gift from Jehovah. Just like God, He will show us kindness, show us mercy for someone else's sake, someone God dearly loved, His only begotten, beloved son, Jesus Christ, a gift from Jehovah God, who loved us enough to come to this earth and be brutally beaten and tortured, to hang on an ole rugged cross to die and yet live again. That's our hope people, that's what this is all about, the hope we have in the risen Christ Jesus. Because of Him we are exalted. Because of Him we are raised up.

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Ro 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

But notice v7 doesn't end there, there is so much more, "*and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.*" Mephibosheth inherits from the king, He gets land and a home. Someday, if you're saved, we're gonna go home, oh Lord **how I want to go home**, to a land that's rich and fair, one that's been being prepared for the last 2000 years, its gonna be a wonderful place, beyond anything we could ever dream and we don't deserve it one bit, we've done nothing to be blessed with this, just like Mephibosheth, the king sought him and brought him and now he's part of the kingdom. That's God's wonderful mercy and grace represented right there. His grace gives us what we don't deserve, far and above anything we could hope for and His mercy does not give us what we do deserve, we all deserve to die and go to a sinners hell, just like Mephibosheth deserved to die but the king had mercy. Grace is undeserved, unmerited, and unearned, it can only be given. Only the king could do this for Mephibosheth, and only the one who sets on the heavenly throne could do it for us. I hope each and everyone of you have partaken of that mercy that endures for every, of God's wonderful grace and accepted the inheritance given to us thru the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If you haven't its not too late.

And not to stop there, but see Mephibosheth gets to eat at the king's table. Now he has bread, now he has pasture, now he has a home, now he's part of the royal family (last part of v11) *As for Mephibosheth, said the king, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons.* Jonathon's son would be treated like David's son. David adopted him.

Eph 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

*1Jo 3:2 Beloved, **now are we the sons of God**, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, **we shall be like him**; for we shall see him as he is. We're gonna be like Him one day, we're gonna be treated like royalty one day all because of Him, all because of Jesus. We get the kingdom, we get the inheritance all because of Him. Praise His name!*

Even though Mephibosheth refers to himself as a dead dog in v8 King David now looks upon him as a son, as one who gets to sit at his table, one that is an heir of Jonathon's and one that he is going to show kindness to. Brothers and Sisters one day we are going to sit on a throne with Jesus *Ro 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.* One day we're going to rule and reign with Him. And like Mephibosheth in v13 (read) we are going to dwell with our King forever, *Ps 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and **I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.***

And notice one last thing, that the lameness of Mephibosheth is never mentioned by King David, like its almost forgotten. Just like our sin, the blood of Jesus Christ blots out our sin never to be remembered. *1Jo 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, **and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.***

So here we have the account of Mephibosheth, a man from nowhere with nothing, with an infirmity he could do nothing about, yet at the call of the king, he comes just as he was, a lame man, expecting death yet being set at the king's table, an adopted son of the king, heir to the kingdom, blessed beyond measure with mercy and grace and kindness. His name means a dispeller of shame, and that shame he lived with for so long is forgotten as he sits at the king's table.

This is just a picture of us sinners, we had no hope in this world, but one day the King called our name, brought us before Him and we kneeled and revered Him and we became a child of God, all because of another, all because of the beloved son Jesus Christ. If you don't know Him you can not be exalted because of Him, without Him there is only death, but the key is: The King is calling, Hes calling your name all you have to do is kneel and become and heir, an inheritor.

Lu 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Eph 2:1 ¶ And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

4 ¶ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

*5 Even when we were **dead in sins**, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

*6 And hath **raised us up** together, and made us **sit together in heavenly places** in Christ Jesus:*

*7 That in the ages to come he might shew the **exceeding riches** of his grace in his **kindness** toward us **through Christ Jesus.***

*8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God:***

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.