

David pt11 – From Lo-debar To The Kings Table

Pastor John Carmichael

[2Sa 9:3-8 NASB95] 3 The king said, "Is there not yet anyone 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 crippled in both feet." 4 So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel in Lo-debar." 5 Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar. 6 Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and prostrated himself. And David said, "Mephibosheth." And he said, "Here is your servant!" 7 David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul; and you shall eat at my table regularly." 8 Again he prostrated himself and said, "What is your servant, that you should regard a dead dog like me?"

[2Sa 4:4 NASB95] 4 Now Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son crippled in his feet. He was five years old when the report of Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened that in her hurry to flee, he fell and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.

[1Sa 20:14-17, 42 NASB95] 14 "If I am still alive, will you not show me the lovingkindness of the LORD, that I may not die? 15 "You shall not cut off your lovingkindness from my house forever, not even when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth." 16 So Jonathan made a [covenant] with the house of David, [saying,] "May the LORD require [it] at the hands of David's enemies." 17 Jonathan made David vow again because of his love for him, because he loved him as he loved his own life. ... 42 Jonathan said to David, "Go in safety, inasmuch as we have sworn to each other in the name of the LORD, saying, 'The LORD will be between me and you, and between my descendants and your descendants forever.'" Then he rose and departed, while Jonathan went into the city.

- We all have a story. Life seems not fair. Some are worse than others but make no mistake, everyone you meet is fighting wars that you never see.
- Mephibosheth had a terrible start. Wrong family. Dropped. Disabled.
- This is a story about the kindness (grace) of God. V. 3 The king said, "Is there not yet anyone of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God?"

What do we do with this fantastic story about the kindness of God?

Here are six things life-giving principles about the kindness of God from the story of David and the Mephibosheth.

I. Stop thinking anything will keep you from God's favor.

- a. V. 8 Again he prostrated himself and said, "What is your servant, that you should regard a dead dog like me?"
- b. He had every reason to believe God could not bless him. The deck was stacked against him. Except for GRACE.
- c. [1Co 15:7-10 NASB95] 7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.
- d. The grace of God overcomes every obstacle in your life.

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II. Know that God has not forgotten you.

- a. V. 4 – “Where is he?”
- b. David wanted this man.
- c. V. 6 - And David said, "Mephibosheth."
- d. [Isa 43:1 NASB95] 1 But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!
- e. Some feel forgotten, overlooked, and unimportant. Not to God.
- f. God knows you. God claims you.

III. Resist the fear of rejection.

- a. V. 7 - "Do not fear..."
- b. Mephibosheth had every reason to be afraid.
- c. We expect rejection, but God gives relieves us. Instead of cursing us, He comforts us.

IV. God's is based on His covenant.

- a. V. 7 - ...for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of your father, Jonathan...
- b. David was in covenant with Mephibosheth because of Jonathan.
- c. [Heb 8:6 NASB95] 6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.
- d. You are in covenant with God because of Jesus.
- e. What does covenant with God mean? In short, God, in His Sovereignty, has already decided He wants to bless you because you are born again.

V. Believe God for the restoration of everything that has been stolen.

- a. V. 7 – ...and will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul...
- b. [Joe 2:25 NASB95] 25 "Then I will make up to you for the years That the swarming locust has eaten, The creeping locust, the stripping locust and the gnawing locust, My great army which I sent among you.
- c. God can bless you in one year what you lost in ten years. Or more.

VI. You have the favor of God.

- a. V. 7 - ...and you shall eat at my table regularly."
- b. A seat at the table! [2Sa 9:11 NASB95] 11 Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king commands his servant so your servant will do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table as one of the king's sons.
- c. It was done for you. Not by the sweat of the brow or toil. That was under the curse.
- d. The favor of God will work for you. It will get you to the table. It will keep you at the table.

- **Believe that God's kindness and grace and favor toward you is bigger than everything that set itself against you.**