

God's Kindness in the Life of a Lame Man

2 Samuel 9:1-13

Pastor GL Wong

2 Samuel 9 is ultimately about God's covenant kindness towards the undeserving. This is revealed through king David's kindness to Mephibosheth.

Considering David's kindness in 3 ways:

1. Kindness in his mind

v1 – David's kindness began with a question in his mind. Jonathan and David had made a covenant with one another to show steadfast love (kindness) forever (1 Sam. 20:15). David has wondered if there was anyone he could show covenant kindness to from the house of Saul. He himself had experienced the nature of God's covenant kindness (2 Sam. 7) and responded to it with the recognition of his unworthiness in prayer (2 Sam. 7:18). The sweetness of God's kindness had triggered David to remember the covenant he made with Jonathan. The kindness that David had in his mind was the kindness of God (v3); that was the origin of David's kindness. This passage leads us to know God better – the One who shows covenant kindness to His people.

2. Kindness in his words

There was a stark contrast in the way David spoke to Ziba (Saul's servant) and Mephibosheth (Jonathan's son, Saul's grandson). After hearing that Mephibosheth was lame in both feet (v3b) and was staying at *Lo-debar* ['no thing' in Hebrew] (v4), David seized the opportunity to show covenantal kindness. He brought a lame man from *Lo-Debar*, a desolate town, to the city of Jerusalem, the city of peace. Mephibosheth was brought from insignificance to prominence; from shame to honour.

vv6-8 – David had greeted Mephibosheth with much enthusiasm and delight. He offered Mephibosheth protection (v7a), provision (v7b), and position (v7c). Mephibosheth was overwhelmed because, like David, he recognised his unworthiness to such kindness (v8). This is the covenant

kindness God offers to all His children; one that He shows even to the undeserving.

3. Kindness of his action

vv9-10 – David sprang into action and gave Ziba detailed instructions to carry out. All the land that belonged to Saul was to be given back to Mephibosheth, along with Ziba with all his sons and servants attending to it. David also ensured that Mephibosheth ate at the king's table always (v11). The king, in his kindness, was busy at work, ensuring all things worked for the good of Mephibosheth. David was reflecting the very kindness of God, who is working all things for our good.

Ziba syndrome – thinking that the only reason why God wants to talk to us is to get us to do things (contractual relationship). Our relationship with God is covenantal and not contractual. *"While a contract involves a relationship for the sake of obligations, a covenant involves obligations for the sake of a relationship."* – Trent Hunter & Stephen Wellum. Approach God in the spirit of Mephibosheth! Every obligation that God calls us to, deepens and strengthens our relationship with Him. Only in a relationship that is grounded in covenant with God can we experience His kindness. Mephibosheth praised and responded to the kindness he had received by naming his son Mica ['who is like Yahweh' in Hebrew] (v12).

3 reflections on God's kindness:

1) God's kindness is most deeply felt by those who recognise that they are undeserving. None of us is deserving of God's kindness. Humble yourself and recognise that you are undeserving and experience the joy of receiving better than what you deserve!

2) God's kindness redeems your 'lameness' for your good. God's covenant kindness takes the 'lameness' from our lives and uses it for our eternal good.

3) God's kindness means He wants you more than He wants you to do anything for Him. God wants you more than anything you can do for him! There is no one else like Yahweh, who would go through the ultimate sacrifice of death, just to be with us.

2 Applications:

#1 Draw near to God humbly through His word and prayer to Him.

#2 Show to others the kindness that God has shown you.