

Eating at the Kings Table Devotions

Monday, May 1

Opening thought: *why do you think people long to live lives that matter or want to be acknowledged and cared about?*

Read - 2 Samuel 9:1-13 (Mephibosheth = 'me-fib-o-chef')

- As you read this text, make a list of ways the text describes Mephibosheth or he describes himself.

Pastor Mike Osborne reminded us of several key aspects of Mephibosheth's life that might pass unnoticed to the average reader. His name means "one who scatters shame" and is associated with the idea of shame. The town he lives in is called Lo-debar, which translates (no-thing or nothing). And his physical condition has the stigma of being useless or unclean attached to it.

- Consider what the following passages have to say about people or animals that are lame:
 - Deut. 15:19-21, Proverbs 26:7, Malachi 1:6-8

In a spiritual sense, we are all Mephibosheths - people whose condition before God (the only audience in life whose opinion matters) is broken, filled with shame and made useless because we sinful to the core.

- Consider what the following passages say about our situation:
 - Ephesians 2:1-3, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11a, Genesis 6:5

Reflect - the hard truth of this devotion is knowing who we are before a Holy and Righteous God. Apart from the gracious work of Christ for us, a loving Heavenly Father who gave His Son for our salvation and the Spirit of God who pursued us in steadfast love to bring us new life -- we would remain as Mephibosheths. "But God...." praise God that this is not the end of the story. There is more!

- Take time this morning to confess who you are and all that you need before God
- Thank Him for Christ who forgives, restores and renews us
- Ask for an opportunity this day and this week to speak about the good news of Christ to those you work, live and play with.

Tuesday, May 2

Opening thought: think back to when you first became a Christian. Who were all the people God involved in your life that led to your salvation?

Read - 2 Samuel 9:1-13

- As you read the text, write down all the specific actions that David takes that involve Mephibosheth or benefit him.

Pastor Osborne reminded us how David specifically pursued Mephibosheth to show him kindness and mercy. But not just any kind of kindness, a biblical, godly kindness. In Hebrew this word is *HESED*.

- *How do the following passages shed light on this word HESED?*
 - *Numbers 14:18-19, Psalm 136, Lamentations 3:21-23*

David also invites Mephibosheth to eat at his table for the rest of his life - a sign of ongoing love, intimacy and care for Mephibosheth - something he is unworthy of yet given by David. How does the Apostle John express this truth in Revelation 3:20-22?

Reflect - Pastor Osborne spoke about the love of David toward Mephibosheth by calling him by name, reassuring him not to be afraid, restoring his lost fortunes and keeping him as a son in David's house. All of these being done to the grandson of his enemy (King Saul). It's awesome to consider how David acts in ways that reflect the grace and mercy of God that comes to us in Jesus.

- *Take time this morning to thank God for being so loving and kind to us, who were enemies of God (Ephesians 2:1-3)*
- *Praise God for the rich mercy shown to poor and needy sinners (Ephesians 2:4-9)*

Then listen to the song - Come Ye Sinners (by Vertical Church)

<https://youtu.be/uJ5dbCV0Rsw>

Wednesday, May 3

Opening thought: how is the story of Mephibosheth a microcosm of the gospel?

Read - Ezekiel 37:1-14 and John 3:1-8

How are these stories a picture of the gospel - our great need, God's loving kindness toward us and our restoration to new life?

- Ezekiel 37 -

- John 3 -

Pastor Osborne told us that before Christ we were those who were full of shame, under the spell of the devil, sinners by birth and by choice; we were from "nothing" and going nowhere. We were more than crippled spiritually, but dead and unclean in his sight. We were a hopeless, unwanted sinful orphan. Yet, God sees dead people. And he pursues us in covenant love. And he calls us by name and showers us with his kindness and grace. He restores us - giving us back life, forgives us, gives us His righteousness and the hope of life eternal with God.

- What happens to us when we forget this message or forget to rehearse it each day?

Reflect - we need the gospel to arrest and renew our hearts each morning and evening. It becomes the fuel for our worship, our obedience and our outreach. Take time this morning to thank God for all He has done for you in Christ. Pray also for those you know who are outside of Christ and need to repent and know this love displayed in Christ.

Eating at the Kings Table

Takeaway Truth

The longing to be known, loved, and accepted by God is the greatest of all human desires

- that we matter and that our life has meaning; do I make a difference to someone; will I be missed if I were not here; a longing to be acknowledged

- When we answer this as "yes" then it's like 'the healing of an old ache' (C. S. Lewis)
- A restlessness of the soul until we can answer "yes" to this

Background:

David - instead of focusing on domestic or foreign policy, he turns his attention to his former enemy to show kindness and favor (just any kindness but the kindness of God)

I. A Mangled Man : Mephibosheth

Very broken individual- his name is odd but it means (one who scatters shame)

- Shame is associated with him and is a part of his identity; big theme of his life
- His family - Jonathan's son; grandson of Saul (an unfaithful king); orphan, lived in Lo-Debra (a non-Jewish town; town means "no-thing");
- His poverty - verse 7 indicates he lost all he had (all property confiscated); penniless
- His disability - twice we are reminded of his lame conviction; disabled; nurse accidental dropped him and his legs damaged as a result of this (to be lame was to be considered unclean; physical and spiritual condition)
 - Lame animals were unclean; lame people could not serve in the temple
 - Stigma attached to lame people (rejects by the religious establishment)

Verse 8 - he refers to himself as a "dead dog" (useless, good for nothing)

Yet he matters to King David!

II. A Kind King

- David pursues Mephibosheth - seeks him out (verses 1, 3-5) to show kindness
- He calls him by name - verse 6! Calls his name specifically
- He reassures him - verse 7; do not fear and don't be afraid (why say this? He thought he was to be killed)
- He restores his lost fortunes - verse 7, 10
- He welcomes him into the family - verse 7, 11, 13 - to eat means an intimate relationship, covenant love and faithfulness being extended; outrageously generous to extend this kind of kindness
- He keeps him as a son - David keeps the man as his son (verse 10, 13) "always eating at the Kings table"; permanent love relationship and his future is secure

III. A Gracious God

This story reminds us of the gospel!

Before Christ we were one who was full of shame, under the spell of the devil, a sinner by birth and by choice; we were from "nothing" and going nowhere. We were more than crippled spiritually, but dead and unclean in his sight.

We were a hopeless, unwanted sinful orphan

Yet, God sees dead people. And he pursues us (see Luke 15)

And he calls us by name and showers us with his kindness and grace

He restores us - giving us back life, forgives us, gives us righteousness and the hope of life eternal with God.

Why did he do all this?

- Because of the covenant He made with his Son to save a people for Himself

Zephaniah 3:17 - this is true all the time for God's people.

Jeremiah 31:3 - God has loved us (his people) with an everlasting love

How to respond

• If you've never said yes to Jesus...

- This story is an invitation from God to you. If you're looking for love and to matter in life, this life and you yourself have nothing to offer to help. God is calling you to see that only in Him is there hope and meaning for life. Don't say no to God. Bring all of who you are to Jesus - come as you are.

• If you're a follower of Jesus...

- This story is an invitation to give God's grace and kindness to others. You have been showered with His steadfast love and mercy, and out of this love you are to love others.

You can give grace to others because Jesus gave grace to you.

- Verse 1 of this text - "for Jonathan's sake"
- 1 Samuel 18:1 - best friends; covenant made with David by Jonathan
- David gave grace to this crippled man because Jonathan gave grace to David!
- So go, and give it away!!!