

I AM MEPHIBOSHETH

7.28.19

SCRIPTURE

One day David asked, "Is anyone in Saul's family still alive—anyone to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"² He summoned a man named Ziba, who had been one of Saul's servants. "Are you Ziba?" the king asked. "Yes sir, I am," Ziba replied.³ The king then asked him, "Is anyone still alive from Saul's family? If so, I want to show God's kindness to them." Ziba replied, "Yes, one of Jonathan's sons is still alive. He is crippled in both feet."⁴ "Where is he?" the king asked. "In Lo-debar," Ziba told him, "at the home of Makir son of Ammiel."⁵ So David sent for him and brought him from Makir's home.⁶ His name was Mephibosheth; he was Jonathan's son and Saul's grandson. When he came to David, he bowed low to the ground in deep respect. David said, "Greetings, Mephibosheth." Mephibosheth replied, "I am your servant."⁷ "Don't be afraid!" David said. "I intend to show kindness to you because of my promise to your father, Jonathan. I will give you all the property that once belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will eat here with me at the king's table!"⁸ Mephibosheth bowed respectfully and exclaimed, "Who is your servant, that you should show such kindness to a dead dog like me?"⁹ Then the king summoned Saul's servant Ziba and said, "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family.¹⁰ You and your sons and servants are to farm the land for him to produce food for your master's household. But Mephibosheth, your master's grandson, will eat here at my table."¹¹ Ziba replied, "Yes, my lord the king; I am your servant, and I will do all that you have commanded." And from that time on, Mephibosheth ate regularly at David's table, like one of the king's own sons.¹² Mephibosheth had a young son named Mica. From then on, all the members of Ziba's household were Mephibosheth's servants.¹³ And Mephibosheth, who was crippled in both feet, lived in Jerusalem and ate regularly at the king's table. 2 Samuel 9, NLT

YOU'LL FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

The religious often accuse God of being too gracious, while the irreligious often accuse God of being too harsh.

"The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully."

Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

For better or for worse, we must accept God as He is, not as we wish Him to be. In the nature of God, we find wrath, but *His foremost desire* is for grace.

God expresses Himself fully in the life of Jesus, but repeatedly in scriptures similar to Exodus 34:6-7 (ESV):

"The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

Elements of this description of God is echoed throughout the Bible:

Exodus 20:5-7, 33:19; Numbers 14:18; Deuteronomy 4:31, 5:9-11, 7:9-10; 2 Chronicles 30:9; Nehemiah 1:5, 9:17, 9:31-32; Psalm 45:8, 78:38, 86:5, 86:15, 99:8, 103:8, 106:7, 106:45, 111:4; 112:4; 116:5; Isaiah 48:9, 54:7-8, 63:7; Jeremiah 15:15, 32:18; Daniel 9:4; Hosea 2:19-20; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2; Micah 7:18; Nahum 1:2-3.

GRACE, MERCY, & JUDGEMENT

Grace: when God gives us something we don't deserve, didn't earn.

Mercy: when God doesn't give us something we do deserve.

Judgement: divine justice.

THE GETTING & GIVING OF GRACE

David keeps his word.

Integrity is the bond of Gospel credibility.

David searches for someone to give grace.

David isn't stingy in his success, but wants others to experience God's goodness.

David discriminates not.

David is never bothered by Mephibosheth's brokenness, fugitive status, living situation, or handicap.

We must share grace with others with *discernment*, but not *discrimination*.

- 1) Family
- 2) Friends
- 3) Followers
- 4) Non-Followers
- 5) Less Fortunate

David works to give grace.

Grace will always cost the giver something.

David shows excessive grace.

Mephibosheth is given property, prestige, purpose, people, & a place at the table.

But before he could do any of this...

David learns to accept God's gift of grace for himself.

"If you expect Christ to forgive you, come in with something to forgive—patricide, blasphemy, adultery—instead of these peccadilloes." Staupitz to Luther

I AM MEPHIBOSHETH.

This event is a prophetic salvation picture for the human race.

Father God's (David's) relationship with Jesus Christ (Jonathan) provides a place at the table for me (Mephibosheth) as a son/daughter, even in my broken condition.