Who Do You “Think” You Are?

Your Perspective Changes When You Realize You Are A “Covenant Man!”

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Sunday, 12:00pm (November 1st, 2009)

Text: 2nd Samuel 9:1-12 (entire chapter)

Introduction:

❖ Most Christians will agree that the Bible teaches that we should have prosperous marriages – meaning that it is God’s will that we have a great relationship with our spouse.
❖ Most Christians will also agree that the Bible teaches that we should have prosperous families – meaning that it is God’s will that we have great relationships with our children.
❖ And then, most Christians will agree that the Bible Teaches that we should have prosperous careers, or professions – meaning that the Bible teaches that promotion comes from the Lord.
❖ However, you will have a hard time developing a prosperous marriage, family, and career, if you don’t have a prosperous mind.
❖ Your outlook often determines your outcome.
❖ Solomon said, “as a man thinks in his heart, so is he” (Prov 23:7).

“Inside every one of us is an image I call an “invisible fence,” which dictates how far we can go and what we see ourselves doing and being. It is an invisible wall between you and God, holding you back, and keeping you from stepping out and doing what seems impossible. If you attempt to go outside this fence, your subconscious mind brings you back. I call it your “autopilot.” It’s designed to keep you on course at the level of your self-image.”

Dr. Bill Winston

❖ Your self image is who you see yourself as and…
❖ What you see yourself doing

So the question for you this morning is: Who Do You Think You Are?
❖ We will see that your perspective should change when you realize that you are a Covenant Man (or Woman).

Background: In 1st Samuel 20 we see the friendship between David and Jonathan so strong that they established a covenant. The Bible basically says:

(Jonathan) “I am going to find out how my father feels about you. If he is OK with you, I will let you know, but if he wants to kill you, then I will also let you know and you INTEL on his plans. Let’s establish a covenant between you and I to treat each other with the faithful love of the LORD as long I live. But if I die, treat my family with this faithful love, even when the LORD destroys all your enemies from the face of the earth. Jonathan loved David as he loved himself.”

The Just (uncompromising righteous) Shall Live By His Faith! (Hab 2:4 AMP)
David never forgot the covenant.
As soon as he was firmly established and his primary enemies were out of the way, he was ready to do something about the Covenant that he established with Jonathan!

(2 Sam 9:1 NIV) David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"
- Jonathan was dead, but the covenant was still alive!
- Make no mistake, what we do in life will affect our children and our children's children!
- God is TOO BIG a God and your lifespan is TOO SHORT of a time, for God to ONLY to be interested in doing something in YOU!

Key #1: As a believer, you should elevate your thinking to the point where you are living Legacy Minded.
- When you are Legacy Minded you make decisions that will impact your generation and those coming behind you.
- Jonathan knew he was not going to be around forever, but he was thinking of his children and their children!

(v.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.
(v.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."
(v.4) "Where is he?" the king asked. "In Lo-debar," Ziba told him, "at the home of Makir son of Ammiel."

This is a sad story (up front): When the word came to the palace that King Saul was dead, everyone scattered. Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, was under the care of his nurse. She grabbed the five-year-old boy and hurried to get out of the palace. In her haste she dropped the little prince and he was maimed in both his feet. He was carried to the land of Gilead, where he grew up and established a life in the city of Lo-debar. Interestingly enough, Lo-debar means “a place of no pasture,” “a barren place.”

- What do you do when it seems like you have been dropped by life?
- What do you do when the person you used to be and the person you are right now are no longer the same?
- What do you do when it seems like the train of your life has fallen off the tracks?
He was born with a silver spoon in his mouth:
  - His Daddy was a prince and his Grandpa was the King.
  - His future was all mapped out for him.
  - Everything was taken care of.
  - He was going to live a wonderful life.
  - And then... all of a sudden, everything fell apart!
  - His grandfather was no longer alive.
  - His father was no longer alive.
  - He was no longer the heir to the throne.
  - And to make matter worse, he was dropped and crippled!
  - And then they took him to a BARREN PLACE (Lo-Debar).
  - Are your Memories Bigger than Your Dreams?

Key #2: If you’re still alive, then you can still recover!
  - Your Story IS NOT over!
  - Don’t Judge your Future By Your Past!
  - The last chapter of your book has not been written!

(v.5) So David sent for him and brought him from Makir's home.
(v.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."
(v.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!"
(v.8) Mephibosheth bowed respectfully and exclaimed, "Who is your servant, that you should show such kindness to a dead dog like me?"

Who told him he was a dead dog? Many Christians today have the same problem. They may not call themselves a dead dog, but they have a low self-esteem because of:

1. Repetitious Information: You eventually believe what you consistently receive. This is why it is very important to protect your “ear gate.” Mephibosheth was more than likely – because of his environment – exposed to conversations of failure, frustration, and disappointment. The people around him were associated with Saul’s regime and probably talked about the “good ‘ole times;” without any hope of future success.

2. Personal Experiences: Mephibosheth experienced a string of unfortunate events. He lost his royal grandfather at a young age, he was dropped and maimed at the same time, and he was taken to live in an unproductive and uncreative environment. Since the age of five, all he knew was struggle.
Key #3: You Are Who You See Yourself As!
   ❖ Your opinion of yourself is the opinion that holds the most weight in your life!
   ❖ You must learn see yourself the way God sees you.
   ❖ Who do you think you are?

(v.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.
(v.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." (Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.) Ziba replied,  
(v.11) "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.

David was a King, not a President or Prime Minister:  
Why is this important? Let’s see some key differences:

1. Establishment: Humans are elected President or Prime Minister, but one must be born into royalty. Normally, the person(s) that established your authority have a say in how you carry it out. In the case of Presidents and Prime Ministers the people execute this role. If they people do not approve, changes are normally made. Since Kings are born and not elected there is no tie to external pressures for administration.

2. Rule: Presidents and Prime Ministers govern, Kings rule. There is a big difference. Presidents and Prime Ministers have checks and balances, Kings don’t; their word is final. Kings cannot be impeached and they have absolute authority!

3. Tenure: Presidents and Prime Ministers govern for set terms of office. This is basically a “job” for them. When their tenure is over they must move aside and allow the next elected official to govern. Kings rule until they die or they choose to pass over the throne.

Why is this important?
   ❖ Because David was a King and not an elected official.
   ❖ If a President or Prime Minister promises land to someone, they might wind up in prison.
   ❖ They can be investigated and brought up on charges of conspiracy and fraud.
   ❖ However, King’s can give away land because they own it.
   ❖ Mephibosheth was able to receive the offer, because it was made from a credible source – the thrown of a King.
Key #4: One Declaration from King Jehovah can change your life FOREVER!
- There is NOTHING too hard for our King!
- We serve a God of NO LIMITS!

Mephibosheth was born royalty, but he had not been around the crown since the age of five. His thinking needed to be elevated. Even though the King had given him land and servants, he needed to be changed from the inside out.

What was King David’s answer for low self-esteem? *Eating at the King’s Table!*

This would accomplish two things:

1. **Cover his weakness:** Mephibosheth’s greatest issue was his crippled feet. Although David was not anointed to heal him, he did the next best thing: he covered his weakness by having Mephibosheth to sit at the King’s table. **Dignitaries that were fortunate enough to eat with the King would never know that Mephibosheth had a weakness, because the King’s table covered it.** David was taking Mephibosheth’s troubled past and putting it behind him.

2. **Elevate his thinking:** Once Mephibosheth felt comfortable operating as an “equal” with royalty and dignitaries he would no longer feel sorry for himself.
   - David changed **Mephibosheth’s financial balance sheet** when he gave him the land.
     - He became a millionaire overnight.
   - David changed **Mephibosheth’s level of responsibility** when he gave him the servants (36 in all).
     - He was now in charge of an entire estate, with a family and servants to help him.
   - But David changed **Mephibosheth’s life when he covered his weakness** and placed him in a **position of honor**.
     - Once Mephibosheth say himself as royalty (again), his life was changed forever.

I will close with the words of Peter about YOU:

*(1st Peter 2:9,10 MSG)* “But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you – from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted”

Key #5: If you see Yourself as God sees you, you will NEVER BE THE SAME!
- Jehovah sees you as Royalty.
- How do you see yourself?
The Just (uncompromising righteous) Shall Live By His Faith! (Hab 2:4 AMP)