



Family Devotions



David and Mephibosheth

Scripture: 2 Samuel 9

See also Romans 5:6-11

Memory Verse: Romans 5:8

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

For My Family

In 2 Samuel 9, David had everything. He was the king, God had given him victory over his enemies, and he had everything he needed. Because God had blessed him, David wanted to find someone he could show kindness to in return, but not just anybody. He wanted to bless someone from Saul's family. Now Saul was the king before David, and he had hated David because the Lord had said that David would be the next king of Israel. He even chased David all over the country trying to kill him. But Jonathan, Saul's son, was David's best friend. Both Saul and Jonathan were dead at this point, but David loved his friend Jonathan so much that he wanted to show kindness to someone from Saul's family.

The person David chose was named Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, and Mephibosheth was someone who really needed kindness. When he was just 5 years old, he was dropped and injured so that he could no longer walk (2 Samuel 4:4). As the son of Saul, David's enemy, he was probably afraid that David would want to hurt him. He was very scared when David's men brought him to the king and wasn't sure what David would do. But then David did something incredible. He didn't hurt Mephibosheth or throw him in jail. He invited Mephibosheth to be a part of his family. Mephibosheth would get all his father's land back and would eat at the king's table with David's family the rest of his life. Mephibosheth went from hiding in fear to living at the king's house.

As amazing as that is, God has done something even more incredible for all of us. Just as Mephibosheth was the grandson of one of David's enemies, we were once God's enemies because we have all sinned against Him. We all do things that God says are wrong and can do nothing to deserve or earn God's kindness. But even though we were God's enemies, the Bible says that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us to pay for our sins. And just like David invited Mephibosheth to be a part of his family, Jesus died so that we could be invited to God's family. When we put our faith in Jesus, He forgives all the sins we did against Him and allows us to live with Him forever. What an amazing, kind, loving, forgiving God we serve! And if God has shown such kindness to us, we also should be kind to others, whether or not they deserve it.

Questions for Young Children:

What is “kindness”? How did David show kindness to Mephibosheth?

How has God shown kindness to you?

How can you show kindness to others?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

How is the story of David similar to what Jesus did for us? What does David’s example teach us about God’s love for us?

What are some of the amazing things Jesus has done for you? Do you deserve any of these things? Can you do anything to earn them? Why or why not?

If God has treated you this way, how should you treat others? Are there any people you can show kindness to even if they might not deserve it?