

18. The Book of 2Samuel—9:1-13

“The King—Mighty and Merciful” Pt.2

(11/13/16)

As we come to 2Samuel chapters 8 & 9 we see two sides of King David’s personality presented.

In chapter eight we see David as a conqueror—someone who judges and destroys his enemies.

But then in chapter nine we see another side to David’s personality—that of a king who demonstrates great mercy and kindness to someone who didn’t deserve it.

And, as I said last week, just so you know where I’m going with this—David is a type of Christ, Who also judges and destroys His enemies while showing great mercy and kindness to those who don’t deserve it—but with whom He has made a covenant.

I. The King Mighty in Battle Against His Enemies—2Samuel 8

A. King David

2Samuel chapter eight summarizes the victories that God gave David over his enemies all around him.

First, David and his army took on the Philistines that occupied the land that was west of Jerusalem and defeated them (v.1).

Next we see him defeat the Moabites to the east (v.2); and then he conquerors the Syrians to the north (v.3-13).

And finally, he fought against and defeated the Edomites to the south (v.13-14)—thus bringing peace to his kingdom.

We know that David is a type of Christ in this regard Who promised us that He would return someday to establish a Kingdom of peace on the earth—but not before He would first fight against and destroy His enemies.

B. King Jesus

The Bible is clear that judgment awaits the wicked, and the second coming of Christ is the occasion for a worldwide judgment unparalleled in Scripture since the time of Noah's flood.

Psalm 45:3, 5 (NKJV)

³ Gird Your sword upon *Your* thigh, O Mighty One, With Your glory and Your majesty...the King's enemies...fall under You.

Psalm 96:13 (NKJV)

¹³ For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with His truth.

2 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV)

¹ I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

These prophecies (and many others like them) will be fulfilled at Jesus' Second Coming—as recorded in the book of Revelation 19:11-21

Directly after this battle where Jesus defeats all of His enemies—He will then establish a worldwide Kingdom of peace as recorded in Revelation 20 for a thousand years.

There are those skeptics who like to argue that there are two Gods presented in the Bible—the God of the Old Testament; and then the God of the New Testament.

They say this because the God presented in the pages of the O.T. is a God of wrath, vengeance and judgment.

Whereas the God of the N.T. is a God of grace, mercy and kindness—even as Jesus ate with sinners, didn't command that a woman caught in the act of adultery be stoned, and prayed while hanging from the cross that His Father would forgive those that put Him there.

However, these are not the attributes of two separate Gods—there are the attributes of the One and only True and living God.

As we clearly see from the pages of Scripture—the God of the Bible is both holy and just while at the same time being merciful and gracious.

He is a God Who judges His enemies and casts them into hell—but He is also a God that shows great mercy and kindness to those who are His friends.

However, He often shows His enemies on the earth kindness—to bring them to repentance and turn them from enemies into His friends. (Romans 2:4)

And we see this same kind of mercy demonstrated by those who know Him and want others to come to Christ and know Him too.

➔ Pastor Seth Waters and the home invader (Luke 9:52-56)

I. The King Mighty in Battle Against His Enemies—2Samuel 8

II. The King Merciful and Gracious toward His Friends—2Samuel 9

2 Samuel 9:1 (NKJV)

¹ Now David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

Saul was Israel's first king who failed to follow God with his whole heart.

Saul constantly disobeyed what the Lord commanded him to do thinking he had a better way to do things.

Eventually God had Samuel the prophet anoint David (a man after God's heart) to be king in Saul's place.

This caused Saul to become an enemy to David who pursued him for the next ten years seeking to kill him and remove him as a threat to his kingdom.

But before that, David had served Saul as one of his commanding officers and even became Saul's son in law marrying his daughter Michal.

Now, while all of that was going on he and Jonathan, Saul's son, became very close.

In fact, they decided to enter into a covenant with each other thus taking their friendship to a whole new level of commitment.

1 Samuel 18:3 (NKJV)

³ Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

1 Samuel 20:13-17 (NKJV)

...And the LORD be with you as He has been with my father. ¹⁴ And you shall not only show me the kindness of the LORD while I still live, that I may not die; ¹⁵ but you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth." ¹⁶ So Jonathan made a *covenant* with the house of David...

Now you need to understand that at the time Jonathan and David made this covenant with each other—Saul was trying to kill David.

Jonathan promised to help David become king by protecting him from his father—in return he wanted David to promise that when he became king he would show kindness to him and his family.

You see it was common back then for the new king to kill any sons of the previous king he had killed in battle (even though David didn't kill Saul in battle)—including his grandsons and even great-grandsons to remove any threat to the new king's reign.

This was what Jonathan was concerned about and why he made David promise him more than once that when he became king he would treat him kindly—but also in the case of his death that David would continue to show kindness to Jonathans' family.

1 Samuel 24:21 (NKJV)

²¹ Therefore swear now to me ['once again'] by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father's house."

So even though Jonathan and David have now made a covenant with each making them even closer than flesh and blood brothers—he is still fearful that David might turn on him and his family once he becomes king and wipe them out.

As I said David is a type of Christ and Jonathan represents someone who should have been an enemy to David but instead was a friend by covenant.

Once a person enters into a covenant with Jesus they are no longer an enemy but are now a friend—and they never need to fear that Jesus will turn against them and send them to hell.

However, there are more than a few Christians that still worry the Lord will change His mind and judge them anyway.

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

¹ *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus...

John 5:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

But once again, what I want you to see is that the difference between Mephibosheth being a friend to David and not an enemy was because of a covenant—a covenant that David and Jonathan made with each other—

2 Samuel 9:1-13 (NKJV)

¹ **Now David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"**

When you enter into a covenant with Jesus Christ by faith (the new covenant)—it puts your whole family, your unbelieving spouse and your children (still living at home) in a special place of blessing because of your relationship with Jesus.

1 Corinthians 7:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.

Now, this doesn't mean that your spouse and children are automatically saved because of *your* faith—it simply means that God shows them special kindness and blessings because you have made a covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ—the Son of David!

It was the covenant that Jonathan made with David that was the basis of David showing kindness to his son Mephibosheth—

2 Samuel 9:1-8 (NKJV)

¹ Now David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" ² And *there was* a servant of the house of Saul whose name *was* Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "At your service!" ³ Then the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan *who is* lame in *his* feet." ⁴ So the king said to him, "Where *is* he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Indeed he *is* in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar." ⁵ Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar. ⁶ Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, "Mephibosheth?" And he answered, "Here is your servant!" ⁷ So David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually." ⁸ Then he bowed himself, and said, "What *is* your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?"

Mephibosheth fell at David's feet expecting him to order his execution as an enemy of the king—instead he received mercy and grace from the king.

In fact, not only didn't David order Mephibosheth's execution—he 'adopted' him as a son, returned to him all the land that his father, Jonathan, would have inherited from Saul, and then invited him to live in the palace and dine at the king's table for the rest of his life—that's grace folks!

2 Samuel 9:9-11, 13 (NKJV)

⁹ And the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house. ¹⁰ You therefore, and your sons and your servants, shall work the land for him, and you shall bring in *the harvest*, that your master's son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's son shall eat bread at my table always...." ¹¹... "he shall eat at my table like one of the king's sons."... ¹³ So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table. And he was **lame in both his feet**. [What happened to make Mephibosheth lame?]

2 Samuel 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴ Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son *who was* lame in *his* feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel; and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame. His name *was* Mephibosheth.

The story of Mephibosheth is my story and your story because it's the story of fallen humanity and redemption.

First of all, he fell and became lame in his feet—in other words after his fall he couldn't walk properly.

The Bible says that, initially, man was made by God perfect and whole and was able to walk with God in unbroken fellowship.

But after man fell we became incapable of walking properly—i.e. living a righteous life.

We were all the enemies of God (Romans 5:10) and therefore we had the wrath of God (judgment/hell) hanging over us (John 3:36; Eph.2:3)

Mephibosheth called himself a “dead dog” (v.8)—and in Ephesians 2:1 Paul says before we knew Jesus we were all “*dead in trespasses and sins.*”

It's even significant that it was King David that made the first move and went searching for Mephibosheth—even as Jesus came looking for us, we didn't go looking for Him—

Luke 19:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

And once Mephibosheth was 'found' he was given an inheritance by David.

One author said,

“Our inheritance is much more than a piece of real estate on earth: it’s an eternal home in heaven!”

All of this was by grace (getting what you don’t deserve)—Mephibosheth didn’t deserve any of it and neither do we!

Romans 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

Of course Mephibosheth had to accept the king’s offer to receive adoption into David’s family which included an inheritance, a home in the palace and the honor of dining at the king’s table for the rest of his life.

And listen, even after Mephibosheth accepted David’s offer and dined at his table—he was still lame (couldn’t walk right) but David never brought it up or made it an issue—how does this relate to us?

One pastor put it this way,

“When he came to David’s table, did Mephibosheth walk straight? No. He was still lame in both his feet. He was still affected by the fall. So why is it that, when Jesus says “Come and dine,” we say, “I can’t. I’m too lame”? The Lord calls us just as we are to come and dine with Him. He calls you in the state you’re in to receive the grace and abundance He has for you. The Table is set. And the Table is the only place where lame, twisted, crippled feet can’t be seen.

Are you burdened because you’re always looking at your flaws and your shortcomings—or are you blessed as you partake of the abundance of grace and mercy at the King’s Table?

I understand that many of us have been dropped brutally. But you must understand that you don’t have to remain in your lame condition day after year after decade. Jesus was broken that you might be healed. And his blood was shed to wash away the sin and the memory of that which haunts you. Come and dine, and you’ll find yourself back in the land where you perhaps once were or where you long to be. Mephibosheth accepted the king’s invitation. May we do the same.”

2 Samuel 9:13 (NKJV)

13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table. And he was lame in both his feet.

Once again, we see mercy and grace at work in the life of Mephibosheth—and the same is true with Jesus' invitation to every fallen sinner—*“I want to be your God and King by covenant. I'm offering you an inheritance in heaven—and I don't care that you're defective.”*

The heart of the gospel message that Jesus constantly preached was *“I have come to seek and to save those who are lost”*—but you, as a lost person, must accept His offer if it's going to benefit you—which implies bowing the knee to Jesus and submitting to Him as your King.

C.S. Lewis in his book, *The Great Divorce*, pointed out how that Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane prayed, *“Father not My will but Thy will be done.”*

He said if a person refuses to turn their will over to God now and pray as Jesus prayed, *“Not my will but Thy will be done”* (submission to God as their King); If instead they say to God, *“Not Thy will but My will be done”* (rebellion against God as their King).

Lewis said then someday when they stand before God He will be forced to say to them, *“Not My will but thy will be done.”* (Explain)

One last thing—David showed kindness to a man who didn't deserve it and for all intents and purposes should have been an enemy—but he did it for the sake of another—Jonathan.

Who is an enemy to you? Who do you know who doesn't deserve your forgiveness and your kindness?

If you can't forgive them and show them kindness for their sake, do it for the sake of another—do it for Jesus sake!