

CRYSTALLIZATION-STUDY OUTLINES FIRST AND SECOND SAMUEL, Week 10**David, Mephibosheth, and the Kindness of God**

Scripture Reading: 2 Sam. 9:1-13; Rom. 2:4;
Eph. 2:7; 4:32; Titus 3:4-5; Col. 3:12

2 Samuel 9:1	And David said, Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show kindness to him for Jonathan's sake?
2 Samuel 9:2	Now there was a servant of the house of Saul, whose name was Ziba; and they called him to David. And the king said to him, Are you Ziba? And he said, I am your servant.
2 Samuel 9:3	And the king said, Is there yet anyone at all of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him? And Ziba said to the king, There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet.
2 Samuel 9:4	Then the king said to him, Where is he? And Ziba said to the king, He is just now in the house of Machir the son of Amiel in Lo-debar.
2 Samuel 9:5	And King David sent men and took him from the house of Machir the son of Amiel, from Lo-debar.
2 Samuel 9:6	And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he said, Your servant is here.
2 Samuel 9:7	And David said to him, Do not be afraid, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of Jonathan your father; and I will restore to you all the land of your father Saul, and you will eat food at my table continually.
2 Samuel 9:8	And he paid him homage and said, What is your servant that you should look upon a dead dog like me?
2 Samuel 9:9	And the king called Ziba, Saul's attendant, and said to him, All that belongs to Saul and to all his house I give to your master's son.
2 Samuel 9:10	And you shall work the land for him, you and your sons and your servants; and you shall bring in the produce that your master's son may have food to eat; and Mephibosheth, your master's son, will eat food continually at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.
2 Samuel 9:11	Then Ziba said to the king, According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will your servant do. And Mephibosheth, said David, shall eat at my table like one of the king's sons.
2 Samuel 9:12	And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Mica. And all who dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants to Mephibosheth.
2 Samuel 9:13	And Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem because he ate at the king's table continually. And he was crippled in both his feet.
Romans 2:4	Or do you despise the riches of His kindness and forbearance and long-suffering, not knowing that God's kindness is leading you to repentance?
Ephesians 2:7	That He might display in the ages to come the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
Ephesians 4:32	And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you.
Titus 3:4	But when the kindness and the love to man of our Savior God appeared,
Titus 3:5	Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,
Colossians 3:12	Put on therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, inward parts of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, long-suffering;

Day 1

- 2 Samuel 9:3** And the king said, Is there yet anyone at all of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him? And Ziba said to the king, There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet.
- 3 Samuel 9:7** And David said to [Mephibosheth], Do not be afraid, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of Jonathan your father; and I will restore to you all the land of your father Saul, and you will eat food at my table continually.

I. Second Samuel 9:1-13 is a record of **David's showing kindness to Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan:**

- David felt **obliged to show kindness**, for the sake of Jonathan, to any remaining descendant of the house of Saul and asked a servant of the house of Saul, saying, "Is there yet anyone at all of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?"—v. 3a.
- The servant told David that there was still a son of Jonathan, Mephibosheth, who was **crippled in his feet**—v. 3b.]
- David told Mephibosheth that he would show kindness to him for the sake of Jonathan his father and promised Mephibosheth that he would **restore to him all the land of his grandfather** and that he would **eat at the king's table continually**—vv. 7, 13.
- King David **preserved his life**, **restored to him all his inheritance**, and invited him to **feast with him at the same table**—vv. 7, 9.
- David gave to Mephibosheth all that belonged to Saul and to all his house; **Mephibosheth ate at the king's table continually**, and "he was **crippled in both his feet**"—vv. 9, 13.

II. Mephibosheth had **no ground to receive grace, yet he received it**; the same is true with regard to us and God:

- Mephibosheth had **no position at all** before David—vv. 1-6:
 - He **received kindness not because of himself** but because of **another person**—v. 7.
 - This is true for a **sinner before God**—Rom. 2:4.

Please pay special attention to the fact that Mephibosheth's grandfather, Saul, was David's enemy. Many times he persecuted David and wanted to put him to death. He was a great enemy of David. When Saul and Jonathan were killed, Mephibosheth's nurse took him and fled quickly. She thought that since both his grandfather and father were dead, David might come to avenge and kill Mephibosheth if they did not flee fast. The boy fell on the ground and became lame because she was running too fast. Consider for a moment: **does this not look like the picture of a sinner before God?**

Man has misunderstood God! I say again: **man has misunderstood our God!** Because **man has devious thoughts about God, he thinks that God also has devious thoughts about him**. Because man hates God, he thinks that God also hates him. Man knows that he has sinned, and he thinks that God hates him. Mephibosheth thought, "My grandfather was David's enemy; therefore, David must hate me. I have no love for David; therefore, David must have no love for me." This is the way we also think. **We think that God has no love for us because we have no love for God**. We think that God cannot love us because we hate God. **But God is not the same as we**. Mephibosheth had no ground to receive grace, yet he received it. The same is true with regard to us and God. (*CWWN, vol. 18*)

Day 2 & Day 3

- Romans 2:4** Or do you despise the riches of His kindness and forbearance and long-suffering, not knowing that God's kindness is leading you to repentance?
- 2 Corinthians 6:4,6** But in everything we commend ourselves as ministers of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, In pureness, in knowledge, in long-suffering, in kindness, in a holy spirit, in unfeigned love,
- 1 Samuel 20:14-15** And while I am still alive, do show me the lovingkindness of Jehovah, that I may not die; And never cut off your lovingkindness from my house, not even when Jehovah has cut off David's enemies to the man from the face of the earth.
- Colossians 3:12** Put on therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, inward parts of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, long-suffering.

- B. **Lo-debar**, the place where Mephibosheth lived, is a Hebrew word that means “a place without grass, without pasture”; the world today is a “Lo-debar”—2 Sam. 9:4:
1. Mephibosheth, who ran away from David, was living in a place without grass, **without any life supply**—v. 4.
 2. A sinner **far away from God** is also living in a place without grass.
- C. Mephibosheth did not seek after David, but David sent men to fetch Mephibosheth—vv. 4-5.
- D. When David said, “Mephibosheth,” there was a **compassionate feeling in his heart**, and there was a **pleasant tone in his voice**—vv. 6-7:
1. Underneath this word was a **heart that expressed God’s heart**—1 Sam. 16:7.
 2. David’s heart was **full of kindness and compassion**—20:14-15.

Day 4

2 Samuel 9:13	And Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem because he ate at the king’s table continually. And he was crippled in both his feet.
Hebrews 12:2	Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.

III. Spiritually speaking, we all are like Mephibosheth, the grandson of King Saul (2 Sam. 4:4), who was **crippled in his feet**:

- Although Mephibosheth dined with the king often, **his two feet still remained lame**—9:7.
- After Mephibosheth received grace from David, **he looked only at the riches on David’s table**; he did not look at his crippled feet underneath the table.
- Like Mephibosheth, **we can dine at the King’s table even though we are still crippled**—v. 13:
 1. Our two feet are lame, but they are **under the table**.
 2. After we have been saved, we should forget about our “crippled feet” and sit at the table of our King, Jesus Christ, to **enjoy Him**—v. 7; Rom. 14:17; Neh. 8:10:
 - a. Whenever we look at ourselves, we discover that we are lame, and we become **discouraged**—cf. S. S. 2:8—3:5.
 - b. **We should look only at the riches on the Lord’s table and enjoy them**—Eph. 3:8.
 3. What God has spread out for us is wonderful, rich, and sweet; **we simply need to eat**—John 6:50-51, 53-57; Matt. 8:11; 22:2; Rev. 19:9.
- We need to **turn away from self-introspection** and **look away unto the Lord**—Heb. 12:2; 2:9.
- When we look only at the riches and the grace that God has spread before us, we will be **peaceful**, and our **hearts will be satisfied**—Matt. 5:6; 14:20.

Day 5

Titus 3:4-5	But when the kindness and the love to man of our Savior God appeared, not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit.
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IV. David’s kindness to Mephibosheth signifies the **kindness of God**—2 Sam. 9:3; Rom. 2:4; Eph. 2:7; Titus 3:4-5:

- Kindness is a benevolent goodness that **issues out of the mercy and love of God**—Eph. 2:4, 7.
- It is the **kindness** and the **love** of our Savior God that saved us and made us different from others—Titus 3:4:
 1. The **grace of God brings salvation to man**; we have been saved by the grace of the Lord—2:11; 3:7.
 2. Titus 3:5 says that according to **His mercy God saved us**:
 - a. God’s mercy **reaches farther than His grace**—Rom. 9:15-16, 18, 23; Heb. 4:16.
 - b. Our **pitiful condition** created a wide gap between us and God’s grace.
 - c. It was **God’s mercy that bridged this gap** and brought us to His salvation of grace—Rom. 2:4; 9:23.

3. In Titus 3:4 and 5 Paul speaks not of grace but of **kindness, love, and mercy**:
 - a. **Love is the source of grace**; in 1 John we touch the love of God the Father as the source of grace—3:1; 4:9-10.
 - b. In the heart of God the Father there is love; **when this love is expressed through the Son, it becomes grace**—John 1:14, 16-17.
 - c. **Kindness is God's attitude in giving us grace**—Eph. 2:7.
 - d. When we have mercy, love, and kindness, we **automatically have grace**—Titus 3:4-5, 7.
 - e. Our God and Father has shown us **love, mercy, and kindness**; **it is by this that He saves us**—vv. 4-5.

Day 6

Ephesians 2:7-8 That He might display in the ages to come the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you.

- C. In the ages to come—the ages of the millennium and eternity future—God will display “**the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus**”—Eph. 2:7:
 1. It is in **God's kindness that the grace of God is given to us**—v. 8.
 2. The riches of God's grace in His kindness **surpass every limit**—v. 7:
 - a. These are the riches of God Himself **for our enjoyment**—3:8.
 - b. The riches of God's grace in kindness will be **publicly displayed for eternity**—2:7.
- D. One item of the fruit of the Spirit is **kindness**—Gal. 5:22:
 1. Having put on the **new man** (Col. 3:10), as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, **we need to put on inward parts of compassion and kindness** (v. 12).
 2. The apostle Paul was a minister of God in kindness, and he charged us to **continue in the kindness of God**—2 Cor. 6:4, 6; Rom. 11:22.
 3. Love is kind (1 Cor. 13:4), and we need to be **kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave us** (Eph. 4:32).

The details of our daily living are related to grace. In every aspect of our daily living, **we need grace. Grace is God Himself in Christ as our enjoyment**. We need to allow this enjoyment to remove from us the negative elements mentioned in verse 31. One of these negative elements is bitterness. Without grace, we cannot let go of our bitterness. **But when we have God in Christ as our enjoyment, our bitterness will disappear**. When we have sufficient grace, we can say, “I am filled with Christ as my enjoyment. Because I am filled to the brim with grace, there is no room in me for bitterness of any kind.”

Only when we are filled with grace will the negative things be removed from us. Take gossip as an example. We enjoy gossiping because we are short of grace. **If we are filled with grace, we shall not seek satisfaction in gossiping**. On the contrary, **we shall be content with the satisfaction that is in Christ**. When we are filled with grace and when Christ is everything to us, we have no need to find satisfaction in other things.

Only by grace can we have a life that is according to the divine standard in all the details mentioned by Paul in these verses. If we are filled with grace, then in the place of bitterness, wrath, anger, and clamor, we shall have **kindness, patience, mercy, forgiveness, and love**. These qualities come not from self-effort, but **from Christ as our enjoyment**. When Christ is our enjoyment, we have no appetite for bitterness, wrath, anger, or clamor. Instead, we desire to have kindness, patience, endurance, gentleness, mercy, love, and various other virtues and qualities. What a difference it makes in our daily living when we are happy and satisfied through the enjoyment of God in Christ as grace! (*Life-Study of Ephesians, chapter 48*)