



Cover to Cover: (2 Sam 9—Mephibosheth)

June 24

2 Samuel Overview

Context: Try saying the name of our man of focus today three times fast: Mephibosheth! There is a good chance that you've never heard of him but today we'll learn about him and his interaction with David.

First, think about Pastor's sermon from this past Lord's Day A.M.:

- How is Psalm 132 a Messianic psalm?
- If under the OC Zion represented God's presence on earth, how under the NC does this rightly refer to the Church?
- Vv. 13–18- What benefits do Christians enjoy?

Mephibosheth's Backstory:

Mephibosheth had a difficult beginning in life, although as the son of Jonathan and grandson of King Saul he was probably destined for greatness, if not the throne of Israel itself.

However, this 5 year old orphan, upon hearing that Saul and Jonathan had been killed in battle (2 Sam 4:4), was carried off from the royal residence in haste so that he wouldn't be the subject of a *coup d'état*, which usually involved the new king killing all the other potential kings-to-be, like himself.

Tragically, his nurse dropped him as they ran to escape which resulted in him being crippled for life in both feet. It is a sad story. From outside of the Bible it appears this young boy found refuge with a powerful Gadite family (Josephus, *Ant.*, vii, 5, 5). This is confirmed in our chapter. He was raised and even married "in hiding" you might say.

Read: 2 Sam 9

Questions:

1. After a time David had the liberty and time to make good his former promise to Jonathan (1 Sam 20:15). What was that promise and why was it made?

2. What do you think this episode says about keeping one's word?
3. (vv. 1–5) How does David go about obtaining the desired intelligence?
4. Why does David wish to show the "kindness of God" to this descendant? (Remember his friendship with Jonathan).
5. *Kindness in Hebrew means love, kindness or mercy (hence sometimes "loving kindness") shown by an individual to another. In the NT it is often simply love or grace.*
6. V. 6- What was probably going through Mephibosheth's mind as he entered the King's presence?
7. V. 7- How did David display a lavish kindness upon him? What did this speak as to his love for Jonathan? What do vv. 10b and 11b add to this?
8. How did Mephibosheth rightly respond?
9. Christians are called to be kind (Eph 4:32) because God was first kind to us (1 Jn 4:19). How had God been kind to David? What does this kindness reveal of his understanding of God's kindness? How has He been kind to you? How have we/can we be kind to others?
10. Have you ever shown kindness to someone because of someone else? Why did you do this? What did it show?
11. Through Mephibosheth what were Ziba and his sons blessed with? While he should have been grateful for this what might this have tempted him to think/feel?
12. *The story of Mephibosheth goes silent until the civil war with Absalom. Two differing accounts of what happened during the war can be found in 16:1–4 and 19:24–30. Ziba is initially rewarded for welcoming the King back. Mephibosheth is initially chastised for having not gone with David. In the end Ziba and Mephibosheth end up splitting the estate.*
13. What did Mephibosheth do that showed his true loyalty to David? Why may David have been undiscerning in not seeing Ziba had been hedging his bets during his absence from Jerusalem?
14. *Gospel Application.* If David represented the Father, Jonathan the slain Son, and Mephibosheth the believer, how is this story an illustration of the Gospel of Grace?