

2 Samuel chp9:1-13

(This sermon was prepared for an Easter Service)

INTRODUCTION – What have we read tonight – a good heart warming story. But is it just that or is there something for us tonight on Easter Monday Night. By reading the story & thinking of the N.T. message of the Gospel, we can say that this story speaks to us tonight about THE GRACE OF GOD. I think this truth – THE GRACE OF GOD – is the truth of the Bible.

It is the truth out of which comes OUR SALVATION.....OUR CALLING.....OUR MINISTRY.

It is a truth which when it fills our minds will always cause us to give PRAISE & WORSHIP TO GOD.

It is a truth which will help us get away from self-consciousness to God-consciousness.

Called by grace....Saved by grace....& as the hymnist says “it’s grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.” Because grace is our only claim – God gets the praise & thanks.

WE WILL NOW GO AND LOOK AT THE STORY –

1) **A QUESTION ASKED – “Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?”**

David is king – successful, prosperous, the nation is at peace, they are an economic & military power, their borders have been extended to what was promised Abraham (from 6,000 to 60,000 sq miles), they are respected by the nations around. We have a picture of prosperity & God given peace. David is in a strong position personally (the problems that did arise are yet to come). He is healthy & happy. I can imagine him musing over all the blessings he has received. This middle aged king is thinking about God’s goodness & faithfulness. During this musing, he remembers Jonathan – his great friend - & the commitment he made to Jonathan. Remember, Jonathan, the son of Saul, had saved David’s life. David had made a commitment to Jonathan to preserve & protect his family. Here we have David asking – “Is there anyone still left

I want you to notice two things about this question - as someone has written “it is a question of grace asked by a grateful man.”

- a) Notice what the question doesn’t ask – David doesn’t say “is there anyone out there deserving? Is there anyone out there who is qualified? Is there anyone out there that I can use in the army?” It is an unconditional question; David is expressing an unconditional desire – someone has said that it is “a question dripping with grace.”

IS THERE ANYONE OUT THERE? Regardless of who they are – is there anyone out there that I can show kindness too.

- b) The word “kindness” – in the O.T. the word kindness, as used by David here, is also translated as mercy or lovingkindness. It is the O.T. equivalent for the N.T. word grace.

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The idea that is turning in David's mind – IS THERE ANYONE STILL LIVING IN THE FAMILY OF SAUL TO WHOM I COULD DEMONSTRATE THE SAME KIND OF GRACE THAT GOD HAS DEMONSTRATED TO ME?

What a desire to live with? Knowing that we have received grace upon grace – is there anyone in my home, my street, my work that I can demonstrate the same kind of grace that God has demonstrated to me? Does anyone here tonight need to know again – God comes in Grace to us

An ex-servant of Saul's is brought into the Palace & David asks him a question – Ziba says there is – “There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet.” What is Ziba saying?

(a) In David's day, it was believed that cripples were that way as a punishment for sin & they were often left to die.

(b) David – do you want him around ? would he fit in? he is not like the rest of us? Think about it David?

Grace isn't picky. What is David's response – where is he; go & get him. We are thinking about grace this evening & our experience of grace. Grace operates apart from the response or the ability of the individual. Grace is one-sided.

2) A CRIPPLE SOUGHT – “So King David had him brought..”

Mephibosheth was lame in both feet. He was the grandson of Saul (the King before David) & the son of Jonathan. When he was 5 yrs old, news came through to his nurse that both his grandfather & father had been killed in battle. The nurse, wanting to protect the child from the same fate “picked him up & fled but as she hurried to leave, he fell & became crippled.” The suggestion is that he broke both his ankles & they never healed properly.

What did Mephibosheth think when the King's men were at the door – last thing he wanted. We now find him in the palace (check). He comes before the King & throws himself down – fear & trembling. David recognises this & says “Don't be afraid”. There was a practice in those days when all the family members of a previous king were killed once a new dynasty was on the throne. How was David going to use his power? Mephibosheth had every reason to be fearful on being summoned to see the king. But thing of the surprise when David said to him “Don't be afraid for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan.”

Christian tonight – crippled – has something happened to you that has left you in barrenness – the word from the throne tonight is I come to show kindness tonight – the Holy Spirit comes in the Name of JESUS – Christian tonight, once again find a God of all GRACE.

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- (a) David sought Mephibosheth to bless him not to punish him. Mephibosheth never wanted to be found; he was happy with his life anonymity in a “barren place”. Especially not to be found by someone who his grandfather had sought to kill. **Whatever the history of your family is – God haters & God abusers – God comes in grace not to punish but to bless you. Remember – David made the way for Mephibosheth – God has made the way for you & I, made a way with good in mind not harm.**
- (b) David said to Mephibosheth “Don’t be afraid”. Do you know what the most often repeated command from Jesus’ lips was? Jesus “full of grace & truth”. The command was “fear not”.

3) A PRIVILEGE PROVIDED

David’s desire to show kindness to Mephibosheth had nothing to do with Mephibosheth – David didn’t know the man before he had met him that day. Here is a man who is unknown, of no consequence to the king, crippled in both feet. He can give nothing of benefit to the kingdom so far as physical strength is concerned but David comes in grace to show kindness. Due to a relationship David had with his father, the king is going to provide Mephibosheth the privileges & benefits he would have given to his own son.

What can we say this evening? How can we relate it to ourselves?

- (a) Because of Jesus, God seeks to bless us & extend his grace & favour to us. **The Apostolic Church can still live under the GRACE & FAVOUR OF GOD. It is God the Father who has blessed us because of Jesus & His work on the Cross.**
- (b) Mephibosheth had nothing, did nothing, deserved nothing. He didn’t even try to win the king’s favour. All he could do was humbly accept it.
- (c) Mephibosheth restored to a place of fellowship & honour – sat at the king’s table. **GOD HAS BROUGHT US FROM WHERE WE WERE TO WHERE HE IS. From a miserable existence in Lo-debar to fellowship with the king.**
- (d) Mephibosheth no longer to be known as a “cripple” – note, it is never mentioned – David takes him in & treats him as a son. Can you see the scene at meal time – (see Swindoll)

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