

Our Promise Keeping King – 2 Samuel

2 Samuel 9:1-13

“God’s Grace: A Seat at the Table” – November 18, 2018



Introduction

What’s it take to get a seat at the table? That’s essentially the question athletes ask whether on the elementary playground or the NFL draft: *what’s it take to get picked by the team?* It’s the question we ask when we interview for a job: *do I have what it takes to get hired?* In so many areas, the question of whether or not we’re noticed, included, or loved is: *am I pretty enough, smart enough, rich enough, popular enough?* All these are based on how you perform, what you’re capable of, what you bring to the table.

How does it work when it comes to God? What must we do to get in *His* good graces? Almost every world religion claims it’s a matter of moral performance – obey the rules, be a good enough person so your good outweighs your bad. But, this approach leaves you wavering between extremes: *self-confidence* on one hand (I’ve been good, so God owes me), and *despair* on the other (I’m no good; God’s hammer will drop any minute). Self-confidence *and* despair have pride at the root (How did I do?) In contrast, the Bible teaches that access to God is not a matter of *performance* but *grace*. What’s that look like? We see a beautiful picture of God’s grace in 2 Samuel 9...

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response.

Sermon Outline

The King’s covenant secures a seat at his table (9:1-13)

- a. *Application 1: Thankfulness*
- b. *Application 2: Share the love*

Read & Discuss

Read [2 Samuel 9:1-13](#)

Mephibosheth was the son of Jonathan, the grandson of king Saul. We met him first in chapter 4 when we learned of an accident that left both his legs crippled. He was left to flee to Lo-Debar (a town northeast of Jerusalem) where he would essentially remain in hiding for the next twenty years or so. Why hide? When a new king took office it was common to wipe out the family line of the previous king to squash any rival claim to the throne. What’s more, Mephibosheth’s grandfather (Saul) had made David’s life miserable for nearly a decade, repeatedly trying to kill him. Mephibosheth had no right for the king to show him love and affection and every reason to expect the king to take him out.

That's what makes the kindness David shows to Mephibosheth so remarkable. David had asked, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" (9:1). That he wants to show kindness 'for Jonathan's sake' points to a covenant he'd made with Jonathan in [1 Samuel 20:14-17](#). A covenant is a relationship where the two parties make binding promises to each other, and David had promised to show lovingkindness to Jonathan and his house *forever*. That's the key idea – though Mephibosheth has no reason to expect kindness based on performance, he has every reason to expect kindness based on the grace of the covenant.

The 'kindness' David shows is the idea of loyal-love (from the Hebrew *hesed*). When Mephibosheth receives this love, David assures him he has no more reason to fear, gives him a seat at his table and treats him as one of his own sons! We are meant to see in all this a picture of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. Though we were dead in our sins ([Ephesians 2:1](#)), crippled by our sin and an enemy of God our king ([Romans 5:10](#)), God has shown us His love by sending Jesus His Son to make us a part of His family. What grace! How can we be sure? Like Mephibosheth, God's love for us isn't based on performance, but the gracious covenant of God: the covenant Jesus made with His blood.

Do you struggle with being grateful? Do you find yourself complaining more than giving thanks? Take some time to meditate on the grace of God we see in 2 Samuel 9. As image bearers of God we can show loving-kindness to others – the same loving-kindness God has shown us in Christ. How does knowing and receiving God's love help us to love others the same way?

Additional reading: Romans 5:5, Zephaniah 3:17, Ephesians 5:20

Prayer of Response

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new>