

I. Introduction.**II. David shows lovingkindness to Mephibosheth. 9:1-13**

- A. David seeks opportunity to show kindness to someone from Saul's household. v. 1-3a**
1. Why does David seek to show this great kindness? v. 1,3,7
 2. David had made a covenant with Saul's son Jonathan. I Sa. 20:8,14-17,27-33,42
 - a. Jonathan had fulfilled the covenant by showing lovingkindness to David (at great personal risk). I Sam. 20:8,27-33
 - b. David had sworn to treat Jonathan's offspring with kindness. I Sa. 20:14-17
 3. The Hebrew word translated kindness (*hesed*) is often used to refer to the LORD's covenant lovingkindness. 9:3,1,7 7:15 Ex. 34:6-7 Dt. 7:7-9 Ps. 23:6 136
- B. Why is Mephibosheth such an unlikely recipient of David's kindness? v. 3b-6 4:4**
1. Mephibosheth is a potential rival for the throne -- an enemy to David.
 - a. As Saul's grandson, he is the potential heir.
 - b. David has already had to fight another son of Saul, Ish-bosheth, for the throne. 2:8-4:12
 - c. Typically kings would exterminate the offspring of the previous dynasty to prevent the possibility of a coup. 16:1-4 I Ki. 15:27-30 16:8-13 II Ki. 10:1ff
 - d. Later Mephibosheth is accused of plotting to retake the throne. 16:1-4
 - e. Mephibosheth was probably trying to stay hidden from David's view. v. 4
 - f. Mephibosheth probably thought he was being summoned for execution.
 2. Mephibosheth was physically disfigured (lame). v. 3,13 4:4 Lev. 21:18ff Jo. 9:2
 3. Mephibosheth humbles himself before King David. v. 6,8
- C. King David shows lovingkindness to Mephibosheth. v. 7-13**
1. King David tells Mephibosheth not to fear. v. 7a
 2. The lands of his grandfather are given to him. v. 7b,9-11
 3. He is adopted by David and welcomed at the king's table. v. 7c,11b

III. David's lovingkindness to Mephibosheth is a picture of the LORD's kindness to us. 9:3

- A. We, like Mephibosheth, were the most unlikely objects of the LORD's kindness.**
1. Our father Adam sinned and lost the kingdom God had given him. Gen. 3
 2. We, because of our sinful father, were born enemies of God, under a sentence of death. Rom. 5:12ff
 3. Sin has marred us. Rom. 3:10ff
 4. We were the undesirables of the world. I Cor. 1:26ff
- B. The LORD graciously sought us when we were not seeking Him. Isa. 65:1**
1. We were hiding from God. Rom. 3:11 John 3:18-19
 2. We were spiritually unable (lame) to come to God. Eph. 2:1ff Jo. 6:44 Ro. 8:6-8
 3. The LORD still seeks the spiritually disabled. Luke 19:10 I Co. 1:26ff John 6:37
- C. The LORD shows lovingkindness to us for the sake of another who had kept covenant on our behalf. v. 7a**
1. We are beloved because of what Christ has done on our behalf. I Jo. 2:12
 2. The Lord speaks words of kindness to us. v. 7a Mt. 11:28ff 10:31 John 7:38ff

D. We are richly blessed.

1. We who were far off have been brought near. Eph. 2:13
2. We have been lifted from the lowliest place to the highest. Ps. 113:7-8 II Co. 8:9
3. Jesus has restored to us the kingdom domain lost by our father Adam. We are now co-heirs with Christ. Rom. 8:17 Gal. 3:29 4:7 Js. 2:5 Eph. 1:11 I Pe. 1:3-5

4. He transferred us from the kingdom of death to the kingdom of life. Col. 1:13
5. We have been adopted at the LORD's sons and daughters. Ro. 8:15,23 Gal. 4:5 Eph. 1:5
6. We are fed daily at His table. John 6:32ff I Co. 11:23ff Ps. 23 Rev. 3:20

E. What is your response to the LORD's lovingkindness?

1. The LORD generously and graciously invites you to come. v. 7a Mt. 11:28ff Rom. 10:13
2. Humble yourself before Him. v. 6,8 Luke 5:12 17:16
3. We should marvel at the LORD's lovingkindness. Ps. 23:6 103:17 Lam. 3:22-23

IV. We are called to reflect the LORD's lovingkindness in our relationships.

A. Keep your commitments (covenants). Ps. 15:4 Eph. 4:25

1. David kept his commitment to Jonathan.
2. Marriage is the most important earthly covenant most of us make. Gen. 2:24 Eph. 5:22ff Mal. 2:14 Mt. 19:1ff I Co. 13:4-7
3. Friendship. Pr. 17:17 27:6,9-10 18:24
4. Commitment to the family of God. Acts 2:42-47 Rom. 12:6-13
5. Keep your word in every circumstance. Mt. 5:33-37 Ps. 15:4 Eph. 4:25 Ex. 20:16

B. We who have received such grace should show grace.

1. We, too, owe a debt of love. Rom. 13:8 Gal. 6:10
2. Showing God's lovingkindness to enemies. Mt. 5:43-48 Rom. 12:17-21
3. How is it possible for us to love like this? Eph. 4:32 I John 4:19

V. Concluding applications.

Discussion questions

1. Why does David choose to do good for Mephibosheth?
2. Why is Mephibosheth an unlikely recipient of David's kindness?
3. How are we like Mephibosheth?
4. How is God's love for us like David's love towards Mephibosheth?
5. How can we reflect the LORD's lovingkindness in our relationships?