

Heroes of the Bible – Eating at the King’s Table

Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – August 2, 2009

2 Samuel 9:1-10

1 David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?" 2 Now there was a servant of Saul's household named Ziba. They called him to appear before David, and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" "Your servant," he replied. 3 The king asked, "Is there no one still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?" Ziba answered the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet." 4 "Where is he?" the king asked. Ziba answered, "He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar." 5 So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel. 6 When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor. David said, "Mephibosheth!" "Your servant," he replied. 7 "Don't be afraid," David said to him, "for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table." 8 Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?" 9 Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. 10 You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master's grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table."

David and Mephibosheth's story is a snapshot of our story with God.

I. GOD HAS MADE A COVENANT OF LOVE WITH YOU

A. JONATHAN AND DAVID'S COVENANT WAS NOT ONLY FOR THEM, BUT FOR THEIR DESCENDANTS AS WELL.

1 Samuel 20:42

42 Jonathan said to David, "...The LORD is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever."

B. THEIR COVENANT PATTERNS GOD'S COVENANT WITH HIS PEOPLE

Jeremiah 30:22

The Lord declares, "You will be my people, and I will be your God."

• DAVID INITIATED THE ACT OF KINDNESS -- JUST LIKE GOD.

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His Son."

• DAVID WAS MERCIFUL AND OFFERED HIS LOVE TO AN ENEMY -- JUST LIKE GOD.

Romans 5:8

God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

• DAVID'S LOVE WAS SELFLESS AND RISKY – JUST LIKE GOD'S.

John 10:17-18

17 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.

2. WE ARE ALL BROKEN AND HELPLESS BEFORE GOD

A. MEPHIBOSHETH WAS HIDING FROM THE KING BECAUSE HE FEARED FOR HIS LIFE

B. HE FELT HELPLESS, WORTHLESS AND ALONE (WITHOUT HOPE) (v. 8) Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?"

- MEPHIBOSHETH'S HELPLESS CONDITION PAINTS A PICTURE OF EACH OF US WITHOUT CHRIST.
- WE HAVE BEEN BROKEN AND DAMAGED BY THE FALL (OUR OWN SIN)
- WE ARE HELPLESS TO WALK UPRIGHT ON OUR OWN
Romans 3:10 "There is no one righteous, not even one"

3. BROKENNESS IS A PERFECT PLACE TO RESPOND TO GOD

A. DAVID SOUGHT OUT THE LOST AND BROKEN -- JUST LIKE GOD. v. 3 The king asked, "Is there no one still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?"

Luke 19:10

"the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

B. MANY TIMES IT'S THROUGH OUR BROKENNESS THAT WE SAY YES TO JESUS

Hebrews 4:15-16

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses... 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

- MEPHIBOSHETH FOUND FAVOR IN THE KING'S EYES BECAUSE OF WHO HE BELONGED TO.
- HE WAS ADOPTED INTO A NEW ROYAL FAMILY.
Ephesians 1:5 [we have been] "adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ."
- HE RECEIVED A NEW HOME – WITH PRIVILEGES OF THE KING.
- HE NOW SAT AT THE KING'S TABLE AND ENJOYED HIS FELLOWSHIP.
- HE RECEIVED A GREAT INHERITANCE.

1 Peter 2:9-10

9 You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.