

Welcome To

Malvern Bible Chapel



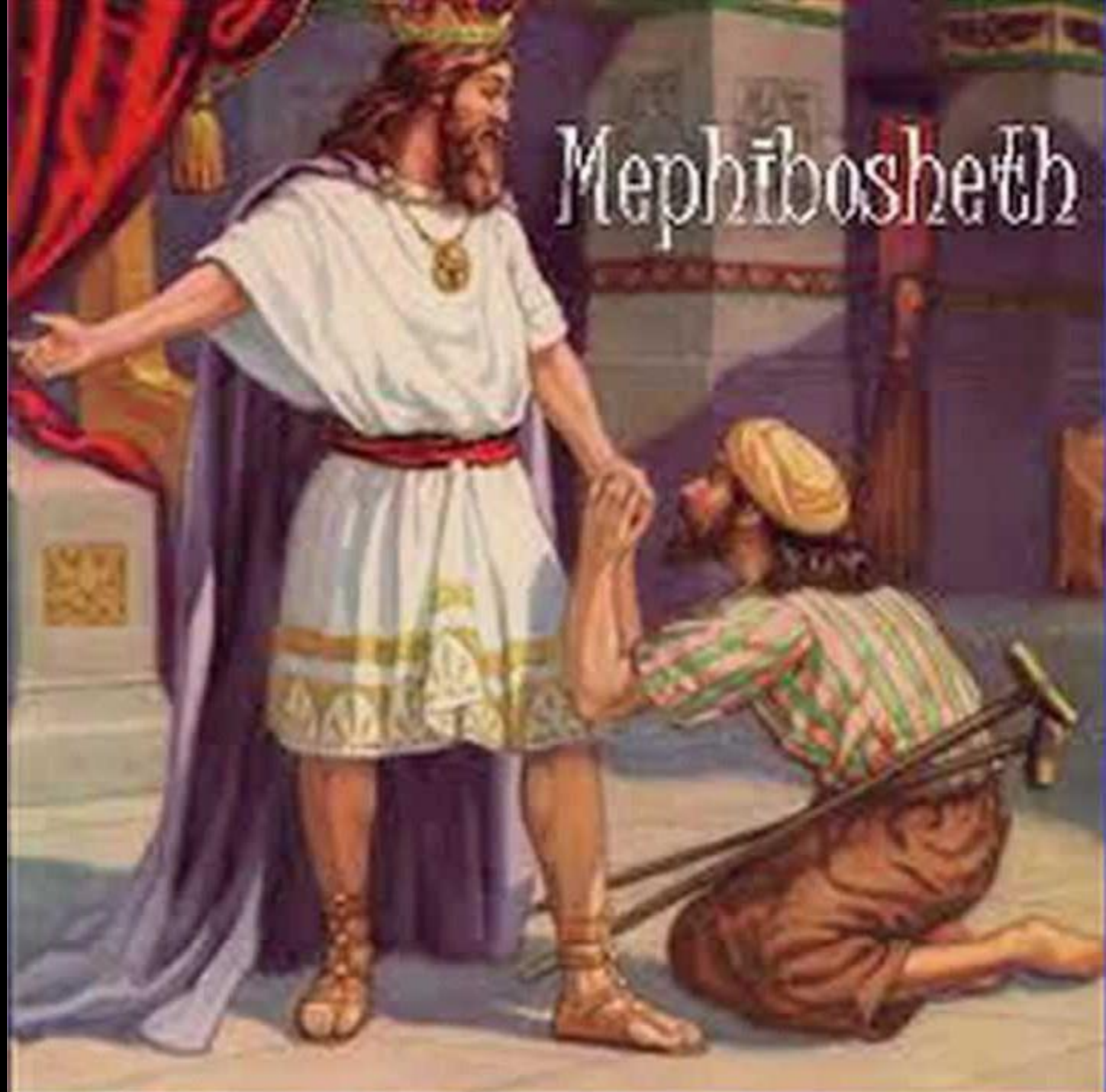
Mephibosheth - Saved By Grace

Part of the David Preaching Series

2 Samuel 9:1-13; Ephesians 2:1-10

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Mephibosheth



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Text: 2 Samuel 9:1-13

9 Now David said, “Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake?”

2 And *there was* a servant of the house of Saul whose name *was* Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, “Are you Ziba?”

He said, “At your service!”

3 Then the king said, “Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?”

And Ziba said to the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan *who is* lame in *his* feet.”

4 So the king said to him, “Where *is* he?”

And Ziba said to the king, “Indeed he *is* in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar.”

5 Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar.

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Text: 2 Samuel 9:1-13 (cont.)

⁶ Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, “Mephibosheth?”

And he answered, “Here is your servant!”

⁷ So David said to him, “Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father’s sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually.”

⁸ Then he bowed himself, and said, “What *is* your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?”

⁹ And the king called to Ziba, Saul’s servant, and said to him, “I have given to your master’s son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house.

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Text: 2 Samuel 9:1-13 (cont.)

¹⁰ You therefore, and your sons and your servants, shall work the land for him, and you shall bring in *the harvest*, that your master's son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's son shall eat bread at my table always." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

¹¹ Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will your servant do."

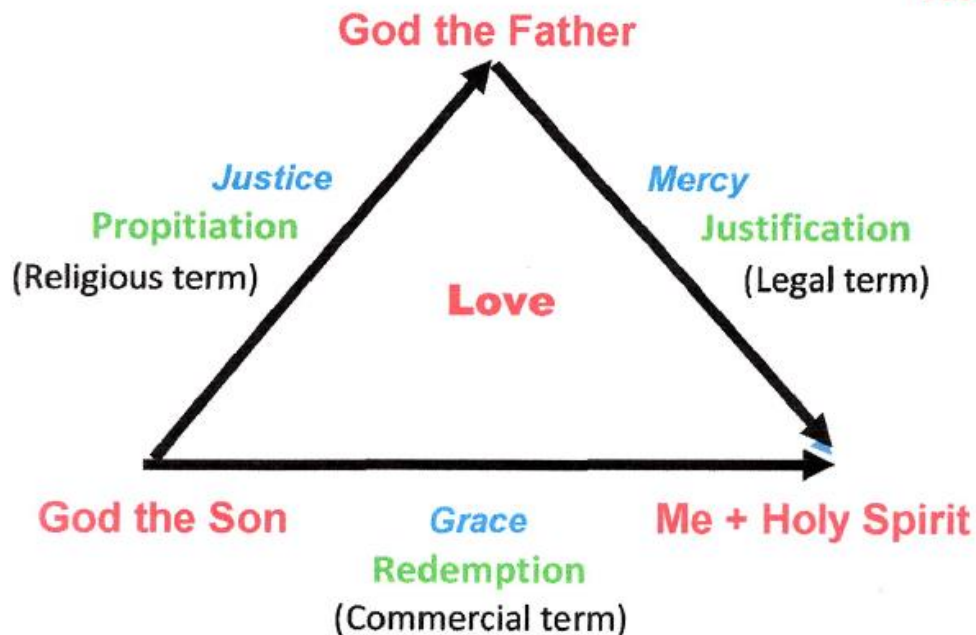
"As for Mephibosheth," *said the king*, "he shall eat at my table like one of the king's sons." ¹² Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Micha. And all who dwelt in the house of Ziba *were* servants of Mephibosheth. ¹³ So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table. And he was lame in both his feet.

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Introduction:

As I grow older, I seem to be preoccupied by three simple (yet profoundly complex and deep) words when I think about God: love, mercy, and grace. A necessary related word is justice. I have tried to illustrate them as follows:

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Notes: The **Love of God** that leads to **Salvation** has nothing to do with me (except believing/faith); but it has everything to do with God! **Mercy** comes from God the Father (not giving us what we do deserve); **Grace** comes from God the Son (giving us what we don't deserve). **Justice** is getting what we do deserve (good or bad); this was satisfied by God. **Sanctification** is the transformation in me as I allow the Holy Spirit to work (activated by faith).

“The Expulsive Power of a New Affection.” (Thomas Chalmers)

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Introduction:

As I grow older, I seem to be preoccupied by three simple (yet profoundly complex and deep) words when I think about God: love, mercy, and grace. A necessary related word is justice.

Mercy is best understood by looking at our salvation from God's perspective (looking down to man in love). **Grace** is best understood by looking at our salvation from man's perspective (looking up to God in faith). In reality they are both like two sides of a coin or like two ways of looking at our salvation. David extended grace to Mephibosheth, just as we have received the grace of our loving God through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, bringing us salvation (**Titus 2:11**).

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Body of the lesson:

1. Preliminary thoughts and review

- King Saul and son Jonathan both killed in battle (1 Sam. 31)
- David laments (2 Sam. 1)
- David received as king by Judah (2 Sam. 2); reigned 7.5 years
- Civil war (2 Sam. 3-4); Mephibosheth first mentioned (**2 Sam. 4:4**)
- David becomes king over all Israel (2 Sam. 5); reigned for a total of 40 years (1000 BC – 960 BC)
- David consolidates power; makes Jerusalem capital of united Israel
- David returns ark with its mercy seat to Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6)
- David desires to build a house for God; God promises him a house (dynasty)
- God's covenant with David; David's prayer (2 Sam. 7)
- David extends his kingdom (2 Sam. 8)
- David and Mephibosheth (lesson today) (2 Sam. 9)

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2. Exposition of the text

A. David keeps his promises (2 Sam. 9:1-5)

- I. David remembers his promise to Jonathan (1 Sam. 20:12-17) and to Saul (1 Sam. 24:20-22) to not exterminate the family of Saul (potential opposition) after he became king, and he is determined to keep his word and binding covenant.
- II. David asks a servant of Saul if there is anyone left of his master's family that he might show him the kindness of God (Heb. "chesed" = "grace") for Jonathan's sake.
- III. Ziba informs him that only Mephibosheth is still alive and is hiding in the house of Machir ("sold") at Lo Debar ("a place of no pasture").
- IV. Mephibosheth was lame in both feet when his nurse fell while fleeing with him (2 Sam. 4:4); a picture of what we all are by nature—ruined by the fall.
- V. David sent for Mephibosheth. Imagine what he was thinking when summoned to appear before King David (~100 miles)!



Lame Mephibosheth
crossed the Jordan,
traveled about 100
miles and climbed up
about 3,000 feet when
he went from Lo Debar
to Jerusalem!

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Application:

There are many parallels to the story of Mephibosheth who was saved by grace and the passage in Ephesians 2:1-10.

Like Mephibosheth, we were sold in sin (Machir); worthless life (Lo Debar); dead in trespasses and sin (“dead dog”).

Ephesians 2:1-3

2 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

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2. Exposition of the text (cont.)

B. Mephibosheth surprised by grace (2 Sam. 9:6-8)

- I. Mephibosheth came in fear of being executed; fell on his face and waited for the inevitable. David confirmed who he was (like nurse giving meds). “Mephibosheth?” The voice of grace called his name. Has it called your name?
- II. Mephibosheth responded, “Here is your servant!”; ready to accept justice.
- III. David said, “Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness (grace) for Jonathan your father’s sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually.” What a demonstration of God’s grace!
- IV. Mephibosheth bowed himself, and said, “What *is* your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?” He is truly surprised by the grace shown him.

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Application:

But God who is rich in mercy because of His great love (David did not kill Mephibosheth); raised us up and made us alive together (sit at the king's table) by grace; we have gone up from our Lo Debar (place of our disconnection, desolation, isolation and separation) to enjoy fellowship and community.

Up from Lo Debar



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Application:

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Ephesians 2:4-7

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

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2. Exposition of the text (cont.)

C. The result of grace (2 Sam. 9:9-13)

- I. Ziba (Saul's servant) ordered by David to care for the estate of Saul and provide for Mephibosheth's family.
- II. But Mephibosheth would eat at the King's table continually (regularly) like one of David's sons.
- III. What a picture of the blessings we receive as a result of grace, when we are adopted into the family of the King of kings!
- IV. David repeats to Ziba for emphasis, ¹¹"As for Mephibosheth," *said the king*, "he shall eat at my table like one of the king's sons." ¹² Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Micha. And all who dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants of Mephibosheth. ¹³ So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem (city of Peace), for he ate continually at the king's table. And he was lame in both his feet."
- V. All our physical handicaps are hidden under the table by God's grace, just like love will cover a multitude of sins (1 Pet. 4:8)!

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Application:

For by grace are you saved by faith (Mephibosheth surprised by grace, did nothing to earn grace); good works will follow; peace replaced fear, acceptance replaced condemnation, community replaced disconnection (see parable of the lost son, [Luke 15:11-32](#)), and restitution replaced destitution. Mephibosheth is now walking with his God in heaven (it is enough to be with the King when he comes again to reign).

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

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3. Final thoughts

- Years later, David had to abdicate the throne because of the rebellion of Absalom. As he is leaving Jerusalem, Ziba lies to him about Mephibosheth not wanting to follow David into exile. David, without investigating the claims, gives all that belonged to Mephibosheth to Ziba (2 Sam. 16:1-4).
- Absalom is killed in battle; David returns to Jerusalem. He is met by Mephibosheth and learns how he was slandered by Ziba. David offers to restore half of his property, but Mephibosheth refuses. It is enough for him that David has returned home in peace (2 Sam. 19:24-30). (cf. Solomon later when he has to decide who is the real mother of a surviving child (1 Kings 3:16-28)).
- “Mephibosheth” means “exterminator of idols”. He is called “Merib-baal” (1 Chron. 8:34; 9:40). The grace of God left no room in his heart for idols in his life (the expulsive power of a new affection). We also must do battle with anything that would usurp the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ in our lives!

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Conclusion:

Have you left your Lo Debar?

Have you kept your promises?

Have you been surprised by grace?

Have you been enjoying God's grace?

1 Peter 5:10-11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. ¹¹ To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.