

## AN EXAMPLE OF GRACE

### 1 Corinthians 15:9-11; 2 Samuel 9:1-13

**Introduction:** God does what He does by His grace. We deserve judgment but receive grace.

Grace is to be shared. Sadly most Christians live their lives as if they are going to be graded by God once a year, giving "C's and "D"s, "you ought to be ashamed, etc."

We forget that all of God's wrath was poured out on Jesus at the Cross and the only Jesus was resurrected is that God was satisfied with the work of the cross. Now if God is satisfied that sin has been paid for, and we are in His family through faith and grace, then God is satisfied with every believer (us).

What is it that the believer must forsake, give up to please God? Is it clothe styles, soft pillows, musical instruments, white bread, warm baths, hair cuts, etc. Did God appoint somebody to tell believers how to dress and how to act?

God delights in making the most unworthy objects of His unconditional grace. God has given us a human example of Grace giving and that is David and Mephibosheth.

David and Jonathan (who was son of king Saul) were best friends and upon the death of Jonathan and king Saul, the only heir to the throne left was little Mephibosheth (5 years old) and when trying to save his little life from those who would kill all the king's family, a protector of the little child, in haste to get away, fell on him and crippled the little boy. He was hidden away but was crippled the rest of his life.

### I. DAVID ASKED A QUESTION

1. **2 Samuel 9:1** - Some 15 to 20 years had passed since king Saul and Jonathan had been killed and David was now king and all was well and God was blessing, everyone was at peace and happy.
  - David remembered the friendship he had with Jonathan and asks (text) is there any of Saul's family left that he could extend grace to?
2. David did not ask if there was anybody deserving, qualified, outstanding that he might help, David asked "is there anybody out there?"
  - The answer finally came (**vv2-4**) that the only one left of Saul's family was a poor, crippled son living in a barren wasteland.

### II. DAVID LOOKED FOR THE CRIPPLED SON

1. **2 Samuel 9:5-7** - When found by those sent by king David the crippled son/man's reaction was that of fear, wonderment, questions, etc.
2. Jesus' most often uttered commandment was - **"...fear not..."**
  - David's answer to the cripple's question of "why me?" was "I'm not going to kill you or punish you or harm you. I want to lift you up, show kindness to you and bring you into my own family, I want to adopt you."

### III. PRIVILEGES WERE PROVIDED

1. **2 Samuel 9:8-13** - The crippled man responded that he was nothing, a nobody, a dead dog and for king David to leave him in his misery, to let him die a nobody, a nothing.

- This crippled person was of no benefit, was unknown, had no friends, no family, no personality, just an zero person.
- 2. David stooped in Grace, provided Mephibosheth (the cripple) the privileges and benefits he was giving his own family, living at the palace, eating at the kings' table, wearing kingly garments, given property of his own and plenty of people to work for him, etc.
- 3. Mephibosheth was totally undeserving, yet he was unconditionally loved by David.
  - He was accepted by David as well as David's own blood sons.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Out of His Grace, God sought us out, cripples, ruined by sin.
2. We have nothing, can do nothing, deserve nothing, have not tried to win the King's favor, are without hope, have no way to be worthy.
3. Yet God rescued us from our place of barrenness, desolation, to a place of honor and fellowship. God has adopted us into His royal family and we are entitled to receive all that any member of His royal family is entitled.
4. Still crippled by our sins, they are a reminder of God's Grace so freely given to us.
5. Sitting at the King's table, adopted into His family, sitting alongside Peter, Paul, Lydia, John, James, Barnabas, the martyrs through the ages, Monks, reformers, evangelists, prophets, ministers and all sort of men and women, from all ages, but all have been made equal. There will be no rank, no title among any, from the "greatest to the least" by human/world standards. Why? Everyone at that table will be "cripples," sought out by God, Himself and brought as we were/are into His Royal Family.
6. GRACE says that we have nothing to give, nothing to earn and nothing to pay.
  - We simply receive what God offers to us. All believers are "Mephibosheths."