



Repentance Tabernacle Church

RepentanceTabernacle@gmail.com
www.RepentanceTabernacle.org (984) 369-5171

Kindness for the Father's Sake!

Focus Verse: 2 Samuel 9:7 - And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.

Lesson Text: 1 Samuel 20:41-42; 2 Samuel 7:8-9; 9:1-5, 7-8, 11-13

Truth About God: God's grace is extended even to those we think are undeserving.

Truth For My Life: I will receive God's grace and extend it to those in need.

God's tremendous grace kept David and carried him from a shepherd's field to the battlefield and from exile in the wilderness, to the throne in the palace. Indeed, David knew by faith and experience that God was with him always, even when he walked through "*the valley of the shadow of death*" (Psalm 23:4). Once David was in the palace, he felt compelled to spread God's grace to others, specifically those in Saul's household.

Jonathan, Saul's son, was David's greatest friend and ally. Jonathan could have treated David as an enemy. David's existence and anointing stood in the way of Jonathan's succession to the throne following Saul's death. Likewise, David should have viewed Jonathan as competition for the throne. Nevertheless, Jonathan did not once oppose the will of God like his father Saul had repeatedly done. David wept when he learned of the deaths of Saul and his best friend Jonathan (2 Samuel 1). Saul's maniacal manhunts, but David mourned his friend and his friend's father. Several years later, King David wanted to honor them both by being gracious to what remained of their family.

The Philistines had defeated Israel at Mt. Gilboa, Mephibosheth's nurse, feared for their safety and fled the palace. While making their hasty escape, the nurse somehow dropped Mephibosheth, and the injuries he sustained left him lame in both his feet. Mephibosheth's disability also changed how Israelite society viewed him. Israelites considered disability to be the result of sin. Some years later, David sought out Saul's family because he wished to show them "the kindness of God" (2 Samuel 9:3). Not only did he give Mephibosheth access to a life of luxury and comfort, but David also lifted him out of the margins of society and replanted him into a position of prominence.

David was a recipient of much of God's grace. He had come far since his time shepherding his father's sheep. Nevertheless, David lived the lesson he had learned; David knew his cup ran over so he might extend God's grace to others. **As Christians, our cup is also running over.** God calls us to extend God's grace to others, especially those we might think are undeserving. When we rate someone as "**undeserving**" of God's grace, it speaks little of the speck in the person's eye and largely of the plank in our own (Matthew 7:3-5). God still maintains a favorable attitude of grace toward humankind; we as Christians must do the same.

First Peter 4:10 reads: "*As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*" God has called us to be good stewards, or managers, of the grace He has given us. We must use the gifts He has given us to minister to others. In the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), Jesus demonstrated what happens to those who receive gifts from the Master based on how they use those gifts. Those who productively use their gifts receive more, while those who are unproductive have what was given to them taken away. We must use what God gives us to build His kingdom and extend His grace to others, especially to help the marginalized and disenfranchised.

Although many in Mephibosheth's day looked down on him, David extended the grace of God to him. David sharing God's grace increased Mephibosheth's access to the world and restored a meaningful purpose in his life. Likewise, we must extend God's grace by removing boundaries, increasing others' access to Jesus Christ and the body of Christ, and developing a meaningful purpose for their lives within the body of Christ.