

2 Samuel 9:1-13

Introduction

1. As we've been going through our David we've been reminded of some of his character traits and how they reflect similar traits in our Savior, Jesus Christ
2. One of those traits has been loyalty or faithfulness, to both the LORD and to others (e.g. the men of Jabesh-gilead and Abner).
3. Today we see another event that reflects David's commitment to loyalty and it involves Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth
4. One of these neat things about this event is that it involves three promises that David makes to Mephibosheth, and these foreshadow the promises made to us by Jesus Christ
5. The full story of Mephibosheth unfolds in five different passages in 2 Samuel:
 - a. 4:4
 - b. 9:1-13
 - c. 16:1-4
 - d. 19:24-30
 - e. 21:7
6. Today we are going to focus on chapter 9, but will reference the other passages to fill in some details

A. David seeks out a living descendant of Saul and Jonathan (9:1-4)

1. Back in 1 Samuel 24:21 we learned of a rather remarkable promise that David had made to Saul:
 - a. After multiple attempts by Saul to kill David, David has the opportunity to kill Saul but spares his life (READ 1 Samuel 24:1-15)
 - b. In an unusual display of humility, Saul praises David for his mercy and goodness to him, admits that David would ultimately replace him as king, and then asks David to promise that when that time comes, he will not cut off his descendants (READ 24:16-21)
 - c. So, David swore an oath to honor Saul's request (READ 24:22)
 - d. In addition, David also made a covenant with Jonathan, Saul's son, not to cut off his loyalty to Jonathan's descendants (READ 1 Samuel 20:14-15)
2. In our passage today we find David seeking to fulfill those promises (1-4):
 - a. David searches for someone from Saul's house to whom he can show loyalty (1): **"Then David said, 'Is there yet anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?'"**
 - 1) It likely that quite some time had passed since Saul and Jonathan were killed because David asks if any of Saul's descendants were still alive:
 - a) Saul had six sons, four of whom are dead by this time: three were killed by the Philistines (Jonathan, Abinadab and Malchi-shua; 1 Samuel 31:2) and one was murdered after Abner, the captain of Saul's army, rashly set him up as a king after Saul's death (Ish-bosheth; 1 Samuel 4:7)
 - b) Saul had two other sons, Armoni and Mephibosheth, who are still alive in 2 Samuel 21:7, but they are only mentioned this one time in the book and David might have been unaware of their existence until later

- c) Jonathan also had a son named Mephibosheth who was still alive
- 2) While almost all English translations suggest David was simply seeking to exercise kindness, he uses the word hesed which often implies loyalty, especially when it comes to covenants, as it does in this case
- 3) As such, it is clear that David is seeking to exercise loyalty, not simply kindness, by fulfilling the promises that he made to both Saul and Jonathan, but especially Jonathan: **“for Jonathan’s sake”**
- b. David learns from one of Saul’s servants that Jonathan’s only son is still alive (READ 2-4):
- 1) When Ziba is brought to David he repeats his desire to show loyalty to Saul’s house, but this time with a slightly different emphasis—**“the kindness of God”**
- a) In v. 9 David simply states that he is wishing to show loyalty
- b) However, we learn here that he intends to show the loyalty of God
- c) I find this interesting because that is exactly what Jonathan asked of David (1 Samuel 20:14; we read this above): **“If I am still alive, will you not show me the lovingkindness of the LORD, that I may not die? You shall not cut off your lovingkindness from my house forever, not even when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.”**
- d) Why is this important?
- We’ve seen throughout David’s life that the controlling force behind his thoughts and his action was his love for God
 - His desire to fulfill his promises to Saul and Jonathan was based on a keen understanding that his actions were a reflection of that relationship with the LORD
 - He also understood that he was an agent of the LORD and that by extending loyalty to Saul and Jonathan he was in essence extending the LORD’s loyalty to them
- 2) David learns of Jonathan’s son, Mephibosheth:
- a) It appears that David was unaware that Jonathan had a son:
- They had last seen each other 1 Samuel 23 which was shortly before David fled to the land of the Philistines, and quite a few years before Saul and Jonathan were killed in battle
 - Mephibosheth was 5 years old when Jonathan was killed so he was likely born after David and Jonathan last saw one another
- b) We learn two things about Mephibosheth (3b-4):
- The first is that he’s crippled in both feet (READ 2 Samuel 4:4 for details)
 - The second is that he’s living in the house of a man named Machir in the city of Lo-debar (4)—the exact location is unknown but it was located somewhere in Gilead east of the Jordan river which is far from Saul’s and Jonathan’s home in Gilbeah; it appears he may have sought refuge in Machir’s house after Jonathan was killed

B. David fulfills his promise to Saul and Jonathan (9:5-13)

1. David has Mephibosheth brought to him (READ 5-8)—look at this amazing interaction:
 - a. Mephibosheth’s words and behavior suggest he may have been a bit fearful:
 - 1) He immediately falls on his face and prostrates himself in front of David
 - 2) He twice refers to himself as David’s servant
 - 3) It’s possible that he feared David’s intent because it was common for kings to kill the male descendants of rival kings (in this case Saul) to prevent them from making claims to the throne
 - 4) This may explain why David tells him, “**Do not fear...**”
 - b. We see Mephibosheth’s relief, and amazement, when David reveals his true purpose in summoning him:
 - 1) He prostrates himself again
 - 2) He refers to himself as a “**dead dog**” (only used three times in the OT and all in 2 Samuel; refers to being uselessness, contemptible)
2. David promises Mephibosheth three things (7-13):
 - a. The first promise is to be loyal to Mephibosheth for the sake of his father Jonathan, and he remained so through the end of his (David’s) life (7a): “**Do not fear, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan...**”
 - 1) This was challenged a bit later when Ziba, Mephibosheth’s servant, deceived David and told him that Mephibosheth was planning a coup to become king (16:1-4)
 - 2) In a rash decision, David gave Ziba Mephibosheth’s land
 - 3) When David learned later from Mephibosheth that Ziba had deceived him, he restored half of Mephibosheth’s inheritance to him (19:24-30)
 - 4) He even spared Mephibosheth’s life because of his oath when he handed over Saul’s other sons and grandsons to the Gibeonites as retribution for Saul’s slaughter of the Gibeonites during his reign (21:7)
 - b. The second promise is to restore Mephibosheth’s inheritance (7b): “**and will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul...**”
 - 1) Land was the primary possession and inheritance for every Israelite—this is one reason why there were OT Laws specifically designed to protect ownership and keep a family’s land within the family
 - 2) Mephibosheth had lost his inheritance as a result of fleeing to Lo-debar after his father was killed—remember, he was not only living in Lo-debar but in someone else’s home
 - 3) To return the land to Mephibosheth not only restored his inheritance but provided a means to support himself
 - c. The third and final promise is to provide for Mephibosheth (7c-13): “**...and you shall eat at my table regularly**”:
 - 1) He was to eat at David’s table as one of David’s own sons (repeated three times; see also 10c; 11b)
 - 2) David also made provisions by assigning servants to care for his land (READ 9-13):
 - a) David informs Ziba that everything that belonged to Saul now belongs to Mephibosheth (9)
 - b) Ziba, his sons, and his staff (a total of 36) were to “**cultivate the land**” for Mephibosheth and “**bring in the produce**” in order to provide for him (10)

- c) According to v. 11 and 13, Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem to the produce was to provide for he and his household, even though he regularly ate at David's table

Conclusion

1. I stated at the beginning of our time together that the three promises David made to Mephibosheth foreshadow three promises made to us by the LORD:
2. We have the promise of faithfulness from our Father and the LORD Jesus Christ:
 - a. 2 Thessalonians 3:3: **"But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one."**
 - b. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24: **"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass."**
 - c. 1 Corinthians 1:9: **"God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."**
 - d. 2 Timothy 2:11-13: **"It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; 12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself."**
3. We have the promise of an inheritance:
 - a. Ephesians 1:11-14: **"In Him 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory."**
 - b. Colossians 3:23-24: **"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve."**
 - c. Hebrews 9:15: **"For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance."**
 - d. 2 Peter 1:3-5: **"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."**
4. Finally, we have the promise of provision:
 - a. Luke 12:22-28: **"And He said to His disciples, "For this reason I say to you, do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. 23 "For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. 24 "Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds! 25 "And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life's span? 26 "If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters? 27 "Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither**

- toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. 28 "But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you? You men of little faith!"**
- b. **Philippians 4:19: "And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."**