

# David: After God's Heart

God is honored when we extend kindness to others.



**TRANSFORMATION**  
for Adult LifeGroups

2 SAMUEL 9:1-13 - VALUED

JUNE 27, 2018/JULY 01, 2018

## TODAY'S TEXT

**Text:** 2 SAMUEL 9:1-13 (NIV), 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 summoned him to appear before David, and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" "At your service," he replied. 3 The king asked, "Is there no one still alive from 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 lame 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!" "At your service," 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 steward, 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." (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.) 11 Then Ziba said to the king, "Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's[a] table like one of the king's sons. 12 Mephibosheth had a young son named Mika, and all the members of Ziba's household were servants of Mephibosheth. 13 And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king's table; he was lame in both feet.

## FIRST THOUGHTS

Today we are going to talk about extravagant kindness and how it is foundational to love. Kindness is actually a skill to be learned, perfected and expressed. Today we will see how David searched, extended and planned out kindness and in turn we will be challenged to do the same.

## UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

David was a great leader. His life was marked by incredible feats, including the defeat of the seemingly invincible Goliath though David was only a young man. At many times in his life, this shepherd-boy turned-king showed tremendous courage as a leader of the people of God.

While acknowledging that the Lord God was the source of his accomplishments, it is still true that David was an impressive human leader. So, in the normal course of things, we might expect the king of Israel to arrogantly place himself above the needs of ordinary people. We might assume that he would excuse himself from the responsibility of showing kindness to those in need. We might assume he would forget any promises made prior to his ascension to power. And we would be mistaken in those assumptions.

The chapters immediately preceding and following our core passage describe military victories won by the armies of Israel under David's leadership. Chapter 8 describes David's victories over the Philistines and Moabites, as well as the conquest of Zobah and Aram. The chapter ends with a summary of the king's accomplishments. Chapter 10 describes additional success in military campaigns. Yet there is more to leadership greatness than the activities and the victories described in these chapters.

Sandwiched between accounts of national success is a story about a king showing kindness. It isn't unwarranted or speculative to assume that this structure is intentional. David knew there was more to being a king and a great leader than spectacular exploits of valor. He understood that valuing a single person with physical limitations was also important.

It is important to remember that David's life and leadership are ultimately understood in the life and leadership of Jesus. Our Lord is indeed a conqueror, and the King of kings rules over all. Yet His rule is a gracious rule, furthered by abundant kindness.

## EXPLORE THE TEXT

### SEARCHED

#### > Read 2 Samuel 9:1-5

- What steps did David take to show kindness to Jonathan's family? Whom did he enlist? What responses did he manage?
- What kindness have you avoided showing because it brought risk to you, your job, or something else? What strategies would show kindness anyway?
- How can showing kindness to the ones you live with be a powerful evidence of your Christian commitment? How has someone extended such kindness to you?

## EXTENDED

### > Read 2 Samuel 9:6-8

- ° How did Mephibosheth respond? What factors contribute to people becoming angry or defensive as a response to kindness?
- ° What should we do when someone resists our kindness?

## PLANNED

### > Read 2 Samuel 9:9-13

- ° Name several elements of David's kindness to Mephibosheth. What self-sustaining kindnesses could we demonstrate? How?
- ° Everyone is valuable and needs kindness. Why?

## SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

God is honored when we extend kindness to others.

David's kindness was premeditated and took planning. He kept a longstanding promise by searching for Jonathan's family, extending the offer and following through.

What is a long-term act of kindness you and your family could plan and extend this summer? (Reaching out to a lonely neighbor; lawn care for someone who is facing an illness, etc. Brainstorm together.)

We show what we believe in our kindness or lack of it. (See James 2:14-19.)

**Personal Challenge:** Express two kindness approaches:

- (1) Seek to show kindness to every person you encounter.
- (2) Go out of your way to show a specific long-term kindness.

## UPCOMING LESSONS

- Read 2 Samuel 12:1-14 where Nathan holds David accountable for his sin.
- Has anyone ever confronted you on a bad choice or attitude before?
- Is confrontation something to be expected as a Christian? Why or why not?

Grieved – 2 Samuel 13:15-20; 31-39

Deposed – 2 Samuel 15:10-16; 24-30

Restored – 2 Samuel 19:1-15

## LIFE OF DAVID - BIBLE READING PLAN - Week 5

**Monday, July 2:** 2 Samuel 7, Psalm 30 **Tuesday, July 3:** 2 Samuel 8, Psalm 8 **Wednesday, July 4:** 2 Samuel 9, Psalm 19

**Thursday, July 5:** 2 Samuel 10, Psalm 60 **Friday, July 6:** 2 Samuel 11, Psalm 32

## READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

**2nd** - Isaiah 4-5; Psalm 115-116; Jude | **3rd** - Is. 6-7; 2 Chronicles 26-27; Philemon | **4th** - 2 Kings 15-16; Hosea 1; Hebrews 1 | **5th** - Hosea 2-5; Hebrews 2 | **6th** - Hosea 6-9; Hebrews 3 | **7th** - Hosea 10-12; Psalm 73; Hebrews 4 | **8th** - Hosea 13-14; Psalm 100, 102; Hebrews 5