

"SURPRISED BY GRACE"

2 Samuel 9:1-13

ESPN's documentary "The Four Falls of Buffalo" recounts the story of the Buffalo Bills four consecutive Super Bowl losses 1990-1993. Field goal kicker Scott Norwood would shoulder the greatest weight. During the 1990 Super Bowl (XXV) between The New York Giants and the Buffalo Bills, Norwood missed a 47-yard field goal with 8 seconds left in the game. No one felt more pain than Norwood. Even 20 years after his failed attempt, here's how he described his feelings:

"Sorrow, I guess, and disappointment in letting down the teammates that are there on the field of battle with you. I get choked up thinking about it and putting myself back in that situation."

But nothing prepared Scott Norwood for the greeting he would receive in Buffalo the next week. Nearly 30,000 screaming fans met Norwood and his teammates in Buffalo after the loss, many of them chanting and screaming, "WE WANT SCOTT!!...WE WANT SCOTT!!" Here's how Norwood described the scene:

We got back to town and I did not know what to expect. What I really wanted to do was just remain behind the scenes, but there was a chant that intensified ... I was not expecting to be called to the front like that. I had to speak off the top of my mind and real quick. I think in a sense, that's when the truest feelings arise.

The documentary shows Scott with mic in hand telling the crowd, *"I know that I have never felt more loved than I do right now."* Expecting (and maybe even deserving) condemnation, Norwood found a small taste of amazing grace.

Tonight, as we continue to examine the life of David, we're going to cover what very well may be one of the classic examples of grace in the Old Testament. Of course, I'm talking about Mephibosheth. Contextually, this was a season of prosperity and peace for King David. The background for our story tonight deals with the covenant David and Jonathan (Saul's son) had made with each other . . .

1 Samuel 20:14-15... "If I am still alive, will you not show me the lovingkindness of the LORD, that I may not die? **15** 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."

1 Samuel 24:20-22... "Now, behold, I know that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand. **21** "So now swear to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants after me and that you will not destroy my name from my father's household." **22** David swore to Saul. And Saul went to his home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

Let's think about God's grace tonight. I trust that you will be as surprised by His grace as I was during my time of preparation.

1. THE PASSION OF GOD'S GRACE

Adam and Eve were the first two sinners. Instead of desiring to be in the presence of God, they hid themselves so they wouldn't have to face Him. Since that pivotal moment in human history, people have adopted their practice.

Romans 3:10-11... as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; **11** THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD.

Every unconverted sinner does what Adam and Eve did. Yet, because of the passion of God's grace, He looks for those who sin by nature and by choice:

Luke 19:10... "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

That's exactly what David did in our text tonight . . .

2 Samuel 9:1... Then David said, "Is there yet anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

In 2 Samuel 7 David asked, "What can I do for God?" and he proposed to build a temple for the Lord. Now David asked another question: **"Is there yet anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"**

You've got to remember that it was customary in those days for the king of a new dynasty to completely massacre anyone connected with the prior dynasty. David went against this principle and asked what he could do for the family of *his enemy*. He did this because he remembered the covenant he had made with Jonathan (**1 Samuel 20:14-15**). His actions were not only based on feelings, but also on the promise of a covenant. Here is a word that is used repeatedly to refer to covenant loyalty and love.

Checed—"Loving-kindness; steadfast love; grace; mercy; faithfulness; goodness; devotion." This word is used 240 times in the Old Testament and is especially frequent in the book of Psalms (Psalm 107). The term is one of the most important in the vocabulary of Old Testament theology and ethics.¹

As sinners, we are surprised that . . .

A.) God Looks For Us

H.B. Charles, Jr. declared . . .

This is why grace is such a wonderful surprise. God has not treated us as our sins deserve. Instead, He has reached out to us with sparing mercy, saving grace, and steadfast love (Ephesians 2:1-5).

¹ W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr., [*Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*](#) (Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1996), 142.

B.) God Seeks To Save Us

2 Samuel 9:2–4... Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David; and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "*I am* your servant." **3** The king said, "Is there not yet anyone 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 crippled in both feet." **4** So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel in Lo-debar."

Mephibosheth was hiding from King David. He was in a God-forsaken place and he was in a pitiful condition.

2 Samuel 4:4... Now Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son crippled in his feet. He was five years old when the report of Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened that in her hurry to flee, he fell and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.

Mephibosheth was Saul's grandson. He was a cripple living in a horrible environment. Despite all that was going against him, the king was looking for him and he had a passion to demonstrate his lovingkindness to him!

Ephesians 2:8–9... For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2. THE POWER OF GOD'S GRACE

2 Samuel 9:5–6... Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar. **6** Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and prostrated himself. And David said, "Mephibosheth." And he said, "Here is your servant!"

Mephibosheth must have been terrified when messengers from David knocked at his door and demanded that he come with them to see the king. The knock on the door meant that Mephibosheth was no longer hidden from

David. In the back of his mind, he anticipated the day when David would do as other kings did and massacre every potential rival to his throne.

By God's grace . . .

A.) You Don't Have To Be Afraid

2 Samuel 9:7a... David said to him, *"Do not fear, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan"*

David made a covenant with Jonathan in 1 Samuel 20 and he made good on his promise, though Jonathan was dead. A promise was made and a promise was kept!

Our Lord has made a covenant with all who believe in Him. He sealed that covenant promise with His own blood. Therefore, as believers we don't have to fear the wrath of our KING!

John 10:27–30... "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; **28** and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. **29** "My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand. **30** "I and the Father are one."

1 Thessalonians 5:9–10... For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

"Leaning On The Everlasting Arms"—HYMN #333

As a believer, God has made a promise to you through the New Covenant in Christ's blood. He will keep His promise! By God's grace, you don't have to be afraid and . . .

B.) You Don't Have To Be Ashamed

2 Samuel 9:7-8... David said to him, *"Do not fear, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and will restore to*

you all the land of your grandfather Saul; and you shall eat at my table regularly." 8 Again he prostrated himself and said, "What is your servant, that you should regard a dead dog like me?"

Yes, Mephibosheth was a cripple. However, David displayed the grace of God by inviting him to eat regularly at the king's table and by treating him as one of his own sons. In essence, David adopted him!

As believers, we must not view ourselves by the opinions of other people. We must view ourselves through the lens of God's Word. The Bible says that you have been adopted into the KING'S family. He accepts you and loves you with an everlasting love. **BY FAITH, ACCEPT GOD'S ACCEPTANCE OF YOU!**

John 1:12... But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name.

Romans 8:14–15... For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. **15** For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

Okay, we've seen the passion of God's grace and the power of God's grace. Finally, I want you to see . . .

3. THE PROMISES OF GOD'S GRACE

2 Samuel 9:7... **David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul; and you shall eat at my table regularly."**

Will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul— David simply promised that Mephibosheth would receive what was his. Mephibosheth knew about these lands all along, but he was afraid to take possession of them because it would expose him before the king. David went against all custom in showing such kindness to an heir of the former dynasty.

A.) You Are Promised An Inheritance

1 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.

John 14:1–3... "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. **2** "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. **3** "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.

B.) You Are Promised Endless Blessings

2 Samuel 9:9–13... Then the king called Saul's servant Ziba and said to him, "All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson. **10** "You and your sons and your servants shall cultivate the land for him, and you shall bring in *the produce* so that your master's grandson may have food; nevertheless Mephibosheth your master's grandson shall eat at my table regularly." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. **11** Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king commands his servant so your servant will do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table as one of the king's sons. **12** Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Mica. And all who lived in the house of Ziba were servants to Mephibosheth. **13** So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate at the king's table regularly. Now he was lame in both feet.

There are amazing benefits that accrue to the children of God. Four times in this chapter we are told that David gave Mephibosheth a permanent place at the royal table (7, 10, 11, 13). This cripple was a member of the royal family!

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CFBC... "David"

Ephesians 1:3... Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ.

Revelation 19:9... Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' " And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

Psalms 16:11... You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Are you a believer? If so, you have a place at the King's table forever. How blessed we are!