

Dispelling Shame

A Study of Mephibosheth & the Covenant love of Christ

2 Sam. 9:1-13

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The Covenant

Sunday School Teaching

There is a man named Mephibosheth in the scriptures. He was the son of Jonathan and the grandson of King Saul. His name means “dispeller of shame” Or, “to blow away, scatter to the 4 winds the shame incurred by idolatry”. Mephibosheth was also referred to as Merib-Baal in 1 Chronicles 8:34 which means “contender or destroyer of Baal”. A picture of this name is seen in Gideon who demolished his father’s altar to Baal. What I find fascinating is that this man, who is crippled in both feet, has such a powerful name. He, like us, was found to be more than a conqueror (Rom. 8:37) through the kindness of somebody else. In fact, a covenant made between Mephibosheth’s father and King David is responsible for the kindness he received.

For us today, we enjoy a place at the King’s table through an eternal covenant sealed with the blood of Christ (Heb 13:20). A covenant that started in Heaven, as it says in Eph 1:4, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him, in love. It is the kindness of God, it is His covenant love or “Chesed” love that is on display in our lives and the life of our friend Mephibosheth. We are recipients of unmerited favor. My intention this morning is for us to look at the covenant(s) of David and Jonathan and compare them to the nature of the covenant by which we receive God’s grace.

There is a problem

We, like Mephibosheth, incurred shame.

Shame - H1322 *bôsheth* *bo'-sheth* From H954; *shame* (the feeling and the condition, as well as its cause); by implication (specifically) an *idol*: - ashamed, confusion, + greatly, (put to) shame (-ful thing).

Shame of the face - specifically the wrongdoing that has been done that sticks to us and we can’t separate ourselves from it. The eyes who see us see this wrongdoing and we are forever connected to it. Does anyone remember Bill Buckner?

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[From [the Bill Buckner Wikipedia article](#): “His [tenth-inning error](#) in Game 6 of the [1986 World Series](#) against the [New York Mets](#) remains one of the most memorable plays in baseball history; it was long considered part of a [curse on the Red Sox](#) that kept them from winning the World Series,^{[1][2]} and led to years of fan anger and public mockery that Buckner handled graciously before being embraced by Red Sox fans again after their [2004 World Series](#) victory.”]

The nation of Israel wanted a king

God gave them Saul, their choice first, and then He gave them His choice, a man after His own heart David. It is in the transition of these kingdoms that we find Mephibosheth. Belonging to the royal line of Saul and like his father Jonathan he would be heir to the throne. But Saul Lost the kingdom and brought the sentence of death upon his family line

1Sa 13:13 *But Samuel said to Saul, “You have acted foolishly! You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, for the LORD would now have established your kingdom over Israel forever.*

1Sa 13:14 *But now your kingdom shall not endure. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him ruler over His people because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.*

Shortly after this, the prophet Samuel anoints the young shepherd boy, David as King, and upon doing so the Holy Spirit departs from King Saul and lands on David.

1Sa 16:14 *Now the Spirit of the LORD left Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrified him.*

In many respects, Saul is like Adam in that when Adam did not keep the command of God, fear fell upon him. Consider how the devil (the accuser) rides alongside all those who wish to live their way, always bringing up the shame.

This fear only served to further his disobedience for the Lord had given him over to what Saul wanted: to run a kingdom his way. In his pride and idolatry, he makes a rash oath that places his son Jonathan under a curse requiring his death. Saul’s inquiring of the Lord brings this to light.

A vow before God must be kept

1Sa 14:43 *So Saul said to Jonathan, "Tell me what you have done." And Jonathan told him, and said, "I did indeed taste a little honey with the end of the staff that was in my hand. Here I am, I must die!"*

1Sa 14:44 *And Saul said, "May God do the same to me and more also, for you shall certainly die, Jonathan!"*

Jonathan knew his fate. A vow before God must be kept. Saul then puts himself under the curse by what he says in verse 44. The people stop the carrying out of Jonathan's murder but the Lord has not forgotten these things.

Saul's armor was that of cursing

Psa 109:17 *He also loved cursing, so it came to him; And he did not delight in blessing, so it was far from him.*

Psa 109:18 *But he clothed himself with cursing as with his garment, And it entered his body like water, And like oil into his bones.*

Psa 109:19 *May it be to him as a garment with which he covers himself, And as a belt which he constantly wears around himself.*

Saul trusted in his works (belief system, idolatry) to be king of God's people. When we desire to live this way, we bring a curse on ourselves for there is none righteous, and the judgment we mete out to others is measured back to us. (Matt. 7:2)

Pro 8:36 *"But one who sins against me injures himself; All those who hate me love death."*

Goliath's defeat brings Hope and love

Jonathan was a man like David: His heart was for God. He desired to show that there is a God in Israel. Jonathan was unafraid to follow God into battle, while Saul was fearful and wanted to preserve His life. After David kills Goliath, David and Jonathan form a covenant of love for their hearts are set on the same thing. This is the first of three covenants which (I believe) give us a type of God's covenant love that brings salvation to the world.

Covenant #1: Exchange of military gear – humility, submission, and unity

1Sa 18:1 *Now it came about, when he had finished speaking to Saul, that Jonathan committed himself to David, and Jonathan loved him as himself. (as his own soul)*

1Sa 18:2 *And Saul took him that day and did not let him return to his father's house.*

1Sa 18:3 *Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. (as his own soul)*

1Sa 18:4 *Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his military gear, including his sword, his bow, and his belt.*

David beats Goliath. The devil, the accuser was cast down out of heaven because of His desire to mislead many in the false worship of self. In **Luke 10:18**, Jesus says: *“I watched Satan fall from heaven like lightning.”*

He and the Father know the trouble mankind is in as man soon falls in the same way: Disobedience = Idolatry. God the Father and God the Son share the same heart to save the world from this disastrous fall (John 3:16).

John_17:24 *“Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”*

John 10:30 *“I and the Father are one.”*

Jesus, in a sense, mortgages His heart to save a people for the Father.

Jer 30:21 *And their nobles shall be of themselves, and their governor shall proceed from the midst of them; and I will cause him to draw near, and he shall approach unto me: for who is this that engaged his heart (“arab” - Strong’s [H6418](#)) to approach unto me? saith the LORD.*

Covenant #2: A promise of life and kindness to His house

1Sa 20:13 *“If it pleases my father to do you harm, may the LORD do so to me and more so, if I fail to inform you and send you away, so that you may go in safety. And may the LORD be with you as He has been with my father.*

1Sa 20:14 *“And if I am still alive, will you not show me the faithfulness of the LORD, so that I do not die?”*

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1Sa 20:15 *“And you shall never cut off your loyalty to my house, not even when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.”*

1Sa 20:16 *So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May the LORD demand it from the hands of David’s enemies.”*

1Sa 20:17 *And Jonathan made David vow again because of his love for him, because he loved him as he loved his own life.*

Jesus's covenant of love with the Father would guarantee that if He came to earth to die for sins, He would not die.

Psa 16:10 *For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*

Further, this covenant promises that all those born again into Jesus’ house will receive the same kindness

Rev 5:9 *And they *sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the scroll and to break its seals; for You were slaughtered, and You purchased people for God **with Your blood** from every tribe, language, people, and nation.*

Jonathan asks again to re-assure the covenant made, like Jesus before going to the cross.

Mat 26:39 *And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.”*

Covenant #3: Second in command – I will be a second you

1Sa 23:15 *Now David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life while David was in the wilderness of Ziph, at Horesh.*

1Sa 23:16 *And Jonathan, Saul’s son, set out and went to David at Horesh, and encouraged him in God.*

1Sa 23:17 *He said to him, “Do not be afraid, because the hand of Saul my father will not find you, and you will be king over Israel, and **I will be second in command to you**, and Saul my father knows that as well.”*

1Sa 23:18 *So the two of them **made a covenant before the LORD**; and David stayed*

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at Horesh, while Jonathan went to his house.

John 14:9 *Jesus *said to him, “Have I been with you for so long a time, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? **The one who has seen Me has seen the Father;** how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?*

Mat 28:18 *And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.***

Jonathan dies with His father: A picture of the cross

Gal 2:20 *“I have been **crucified with Christ**; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

Mephibosheth is a partaker of that new life!

The Call

Sunday Morning Preaching

David is anointed king of Judah by the people after King Saul and Saul's son Jonathan are killed in battle. Saul's other son, Ish-bosheth, whose name means "man of shame", is made king of Israel. Then, we read of Jonathan's son Mephibosheth, a five-year-old boy at the time, being injured as his nurse whisks him away. In fear of being killed by David, he is made lame in both legs from a fall. There is fighting between the House of Saul and the House of David and finally, after much fighting, David is anointed King over the whole nation. King David leads the nation in several victorious battles and finally, there is a little rest, at least enough for David to remember His covenant with Jonathan.

In the passage read this morning (2 Sam 9:1-11) David speaks of showing kindness to the house of Saul three times. He says in verse 1: "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul, so that I could **show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?**" He then says in verse 3: "Is there no one remaining of the house of Saul to whom I could **show the kindness of God?**" Finally, when David is speaking to Mephibosheth, he says: "Do not be afraid, for I will assuredly **show kindness to you** for the sake of your father Jonathan.

David "remembers" the covenant he made with Jonathan and wants to show this kindness of God or covenant love, or chesed love to someone who was a relative of Jonathan by blood. Because of this covenant, it is like the blood of David flows in the veins of those who are Jonathan's children. They are his adopted children by covenant.

Jesus says in John 5 about the scriptures that "**it is those that testify about Me**" This is precisely what is happening here! Even though this [account] is a historical narrative, we are given the truth that testifies and gives examples so that we may know the love of God in Christ Jesus.

This morning, I want us all to see that we are all Mephibosheth. There exists a

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covenant made before the foundation of the world, made between God the Father and God the Son whereby you may be restored to God's eternal kingdom, and that you may have a seat at the king's table. The same-souled love of David and Jonathan is a picture of the unified heart of Jesus and the Father. The love they share in a covenant relationship was always meant to be shared with man, the offspring of Adam and Eve.

John 17:24 *“Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for **You loved Me before the foundation of the world.**”*

There is a problem within our text this morning that isn't so readily apparent. Verse 3 explains the problem: The one who would receive this mercy is lame in both feet. So why is this a problem?

2Sa 5:6 *Now the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land; and they said to David, “You shall not come in here, but even those who are blind and those who limp will turn you away,” thinking, “David cannot enter here.”*

2Sa 5:7 *Nevertheless, David captured the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David.*

2Sa 5:8 *And David said on that day, “Whoever strikes the Jebusites is to reach those who limp and those who are blind, who are **hated by David's soul**, through the water tunnel.” For that reason they say, “People who are blind and people who limp shall not come into the house.”*

How could a lame man be allowed into the house of the king? Do you remember how Mephibosheth became lame? He was made lame in a fall. Adam and Eve also fell, not physically, but spiritually. Their fall caused their children to be lame, again, spiritually lame. Unable to walk with God any longer, unable to walk in His love and connectedness. Remember how they ran and hid. Choosing to believe lies, they began experiencing fear and shame, groping for a solution to cover it over. They perceived they were naked so they tried to cover what they saw as the problem but those leaves could not restore the connection that was severed. The curse of disobedience was being given over to a corrupted mind, a mind that tries to seek its way apart from God. Idolatry.

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Rom 1:25 *For they exchanged the truth of God for falsehood, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

The Jebusites trusted in their idols to save them and these idols were the ones who were blind and lame yet because they relied on them they also were referred to as blind and lame.

Psa 135:18 *Those who make them will become like them, Yes, everyone who trusts in them.*

Idolatry is the source of shame. This shame cannot be covered over, it must be destroyed. Death is it's penalty

Jer 51:17 *Every person is **stupid**, devoid of knowledge; **Every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols**, For his cast metal images are deceitful, And there is no breath in them.*

Jer 51:18 *They are worthless, a work of mockery; At the time of their punishment they will perish.*

Jer 51:19 *The **portion of Jacob is not like these; For He is the Maker of everything, And of the tribe of His inheritance; The LORD of armies is His name.***

Idolatry is turning away from the true God and looking to make a god that tells us what we want to hear. It is stupid because it is choosing to believe a lie over the truth. What we believe or trust in dictates who we become.

According to our text, where is Mephibosheth and where are you?

2Sa 9:4 *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 is in a place of shame...a house of shame

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Recall Mephibosheth lived in the king's palace and now having lost all that including the use of his legs he sits in darkness.

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The house of Machir – the house of a salesman from the word sold as in sold into slavery. (Given over to his thoughts and living in fear)

Ammiel – people of God - Every person is created in the image of God in that sense we are all His people... in **Lo-debar – no pasture, no fold, no word**

In summary, *Mephibosheth was a child of the king having lost his kingly position and home now living in a place that was outside the kingdom he once was part of.* Like Adam and Eve and their descendants, including us living outside the garden and outside the pasture outside the fold of God. We are eternally disconnected from the King and under the sentence of death.

Mephibosheth probably lived with those who whisked him out of the palace. They may have repeatedly told him to keep out of sight and to fear David. They may have even incited anger towards David, anger which was all set on lies. He probably did not know of the covenant between His dad and David. He sits in bondage to the lies about the King. Enslaved to the thoughts running through His mind, “David made me cripple; David wants to kill me. I should be king one day.” All lies. But the truth would set him free!

We live in a fallen world

Like Adam and Eve, we perceive shame as a physical or mental thing. Something we can deal with on our own. I’m naked. I’ll use these fig leaves to cover [my] shame. Unfortunately, that never solves the real problem. Our incompleteness before God, our lameness, and our solutions don’t give us a reprieve from the sentence of death.

Each one of us is well acquainted with shame. We have all experienced it at one time or another. Shame serves as a motivator for any moral system. Shame is incurred when we fail to measure up to the standard set by that system, a system of law.

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The Gottman Institute¹ says in their article [How to deal with Shame](#) “*Shame is felt universally across countries and different cultures. Homes and schools use social shaming to ensure expected behaviors*”.

These expected behaviors may differ from place to place and over time. What is shameful in one place may not be in another. These expected behaviors are like shifting sands.

My wife and I hosted a missionary couple from Thailand. While we were entertaining them, my wife patted me on the head, something I thought nothing of. An act of love to me but Jim and Kathy recoiled because in Thailand if a wife were to do that to her husband it would be seen as a show of disrespect. It would be seen as shameful.

No shame here, but shame there. So, shame can be experienced because of what our peer group thinks. We can also feel shame for foolish things we have done or things that were done to us by someone else. We feel the eyes of the world upon us, judging us. This is why so many fear public speaking.

These various moral systems amount to slavery and we are often blind to it. The shame of those systems keeps us in bondage to them. It is slavery. In an attempt to escape this bondage, we may run to many things for comfort, and those things just enslave us *further!* Shame and condemnation are the clothing in the world’s system. A clothing of curses is worn in the world’s house much like King Saul and any who desire to live according to their own rules. In this house, hypocrisy and hatred rule, all the while God’s judgment and His standard are what is over all for everything is done before the eyes of the Lord. Our shame must be dealt with.

Shame is felt when we do wrong whether before others or before God. “Bosheth shame” or “Shame of the face” is when we are made aware of our condition before God. (Remember our friend Bill Buckner?) We can either cling to our moral system and deny the shame or throw ourselves at God’s mercy.

The eyes are referred to as the windows of the soul. What is going on inside is often

¹ Caveat: This is a secular counseling organization: <https://www.gottman.com/about/>. This resource still offers insight into the nature and dynamics of human relationships, albeit apart from a Christian worldview.

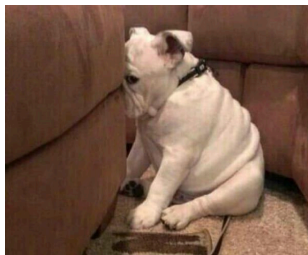
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seen in the eyes. Jesus says:

Luke 11:34 *“Your eye is the lamp of your body; when your eye is clear, your whole body also is full of light; but when it is bad, your body also is full of darkness.”*

So what are you beholding or looking at? When we are facing a system run by shame and fear this is what will fill our soul. We feel it. We feel the condemnation, we feel the impending judgment.

Let us look at our pets as an example:



Even dogs feel shame when they do something their owner disapproves of. You know the look. They feel it because we want them to know they did something wrong. There is an anticipation of judgment. BAD DOG! We condition our dogs to respond this way. They are just waiting for the other shoe to drop when they have gone against our house rules.

Heb 4:12 *For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Heb 4:13 *And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him to whom we must answer.*

This is where we find Mephibosheth in our text: Fearing the death sentence by the king. He was summoned by King David so that he may be restored to the house of the king. Not because he was the grandson of Saul but because he was a child of Jonathan and the blood that flowed in His veins was one with David's because of the covenant. But because of his unknowing or unbelief of the covenant, Mephibosheth was in fear: The fear that the new King David was seeking out the family of the old King Saul to kill off anyone who could lay claim to the throne by blood.

He is a partaker of the covenant of his father and David but he is not aware of it!

2Sa 9:6 *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!”*

2Sa 9:7 *Then David said to him, “Do not be afraid, for I will assuredly show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul; and you yourself shall eat at my table regularly.”*

2Sa 9:8 *Again he prostrated himself, and said, “**What is your servant, that you should be concerned about a dead dog like me?**”*

In the foolishness of our idolatries that we inherited from our forefathers (aka Adam and Eve), we are under the judgment and condemnation of God. But because of an eternal covenant made before the foundation of the world and sealed in the blood of Christ in the new covenant, there is a call that goes out to every man and woman: Be reconciled to God. (2 Cor. 5:20)

Mephibosheth could not take back the kingdom himself. He couldn't even walk! He had to be carried to the King. This is us: Spiritually crippled and blind unable to bring ourselves before the King.

Luk 5:18 *And some men were carrying a man on a stretcher who was paralyzed; and they were trying to bring him in and to set him down in front of Him.*

Luk 5:19 *But when they did not find any way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher, into the middle of the crowd, in front of Jesus.*

Luk 5:20 *And seeing their faith, He said, “**Friend, your sins are forgiven you.**”*

Friend, I am here today to tell you that your sins can be forgiven by Jesus Christ, not because of any merit of your own for the Bible tells us we all fall short of God's standard but because of a covenant forged in love before the foundation of the world and sealed in blood, like the covenant between Jonathan and David. Because there was an exchange of clothing, the righteous for the unrighteous, the clean for the filthy, and a

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promise kept By David to the house of Jonathan Like that of Jesus to us. We may stand faultless before the throne of God with no condemnation and no shame!

Jonathan named his son “Mephibosheth” because he had such hope! He would be a dispeller of shame, a destroyer of the idol! Not because he would do valiantly, but because of the loving-kindness of King David and the same soul they shared within their covenant. The shame of King Saul would be overcome by the kindness of David, just as our shame is dispelled by the kindness of King Jesus, blown away to the four winds.

Expecting the worst, but instead, finding restoration instead, we read:

2Sa 9:9 *Then the king summoned Saul’s servant Ziba and said to him, “Everything that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master’s grandson.*

2Sa 9:10 *“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 will have food to eat; nevertheless Mephibosheth, your master’s grandson, shall eat at my table regularly.”*
Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

2Sa 9:11 *Then Ziba said to the king, “In accordance with everything 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.***

Mephibosheth, because of the covenant, was removed from the house of Saul and placed into the new kingly line by the blood of the covenant. He was as good as a natural-born child of David.

Even though we are spiritually crippled and under a death sentence for our departure from following God’s law, we can be brought to the table of God by faith in the one who was nailed to the cross and died for our sins and rose again.

Hebrews 12:2 tells us Jesus went to the cross despising the shame! He took on all our shame so that we may be called Mephibosheth! Our shame is dispelled when we put our trust in, put our faith in, or believe in the one who took on our shame and nailed it to the cross!

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For you dear friends, if you have trusted the King, no longer are you to live in the land of Lo Debar.

Eph 2:4 *But God, being **rich in mercy**, because of His great love with which He loved us,*

Eph 2:5 *even when we were **dead in our wrongdoings**, (dead dog), made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),*

Eph 2:6 *and raised us up with Him, and **seated us with Him** in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*

Eph 2:7 *so that in the ages to come He might show the boundless riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

You are seated at the King's table, seen as His son, nourished by his supply of food. You are no longer in the darkness of shame but you are in the light of His perfect love.

1Jn 4:18 *There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.*

Shame is dispelled at the table of the King, where we find mercy, loving-kindness, and the forgiveness of sin. To eat at the table is to partake of Jesus, for He is the living bread. No longer are you outside the fold of God, but you have been brought to green pasture, so you may confidently say:

Psa 23:1 ***A Psalm of David.** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

Psa 23:2 ***He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:** he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

Psa 23:3 ***He restoreth my soul:** he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

We must look to Jesus and the truth of the gospel so our souls may be full of light, that we might be complete and lacking nothing, reminded and shown by His Holy Spirit and the truth of His promises that the same love that the Father and the Son share now fills our hearts.

Those who have been shown the kindness of the King now live in a kingdom motivated

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by love and not shame. The fear and shame of man bring a snare and can keep us from enjoying our seat at His table. Our King is held by an eternal covenant, one that was set before the foundation of the world. His promises do not change like the shifting sands of morality in the world.

2Pet 1:4 *Through these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world on account of lust.*

We need to look to Jesus, the author, and perfecter of our faith, just as Mephibosheth looked to David to receive the kindness of the Lord!

Are you Mephibosheth in Lo-debar or Mephibosheth seated at the king's table? Where are you? The choice is yours, should answer the call of the King.

If you find yourself in Lo-Debar, with no hope, would you come to Him in repentance and faith?(Acts 20:21) First, acknowledge your spiritual condition before Him, then believe He has the power to heal you and restore you to the kingdom of God!

Psa 103:1 *A Psalm of David. Bless the LORD, my soul, And all that is within me, bless His holy name.*

Psa 103:2 *Bless the LORD, my soul, And do not forget any of His benefits;*

Psa 103:3 *Who pardons all your guilt, Who heals all your diseases;*

Psa 103:4 *Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with favor and compassion;*

Psa 103:5 *Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.*

Jesus has been given the authority to heal us by the Father through the eternal covenant:

Mat 21:14 *And those who were blind and those who limped came to Him in the temple area, and He healed them.*

There is no shame God's grace cannot overcome!

The Confirmation

Sunday Evening Teaching

Mephibosheth eats at King David's table for quite some time until there is trouble in the kingdom. Absalom, David's son, takes the kingdom over by slowly convincing the people that he is more sympathetic to their needs than His father.

2Sa 15:13 *Then a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the people of Israel are with Absalom." This causes David to flee the city as Absalom's conspiracy grows.*

Four chapters later, we see David returning to the city as Absalom Has been killed. This is where we will pick up our text for this evening.

2Sa 19:24 *Then **Mephibosheth** the grandson of Saul came down to meet the king; but he had neither tended to his feet, nor trimmed his mustache, nor washed his clothes since the day the king departed until the day he came home in peace.*

2Sa 19:25 *And it was when he came from Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said to him, "**Why did you not go with me, Mephibosheth?**"*

2Sa 19:26 *So he said, "My lord the king, my servant betrayed me; for your servant said, 'I will saddle the donkey for myself so that I may ride on it and go with the king,' since your servant cannot walk.*

2Sa 19:27 *"Furthermore, **he has slandered your servant to my lord the king; but my lord the king is like the angel of God, therefore do what is good in your sight.***

2Sa 19:28 *"For all my father's household was only people **worthy of death** to my lord the king; yet you placed your servant among those who ate at your own table. So what right do I still have, that I should complain anymore to the king?"*

2Sa 19:29 *So the king said to him, "Why do you still speak of your affairs? I have decided, 'You and Ziba shall divide the land.'"*

2Sa 19:30 *And Mephibosheth said to the king, "**Let him even take it all, since my lord the king has come safely to his own house.**"*

David's piercing question: "Why did you not go with me, Mephibosheth?"

[David might have been thinking:] "You are part of my family, I have shown you the kindness of the Lord, and I have removed all your shame."

How this must have cut to the heart of Mephibosheth! His appearance was an indication of the sorrow and anguish he must have felt as he was separated from the one who provided everything for Him. Even though he was in the city, I'm sure he felt he was in Lo-debar all over again!

The Refiner's fire

Mephibosheth's love for David was being tried or refined.

Pro 17:3 *The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts.*

He is doing this to us as we learn to follow the Spirit, as we are encouraged to. Like Mephibosheth, to go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach. (Heb. 13:13)

The Lord has instilled His heart in us, the same heart that is shared between the Father and the Son. His compassions and mercies and desires begin to lead us. It is His Spirit.

Eze 36:25 *Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.*

Eze 36:26 *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.*

Eze 36:27 *And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them*

This "refiner's fire" burns off all that would cause us to go our own way. It removes that which would keep us from following our Savior anywhere so that we may continue to behold him.

Jesus prays that we might join Him, just as I am sure David desired Mephibosheth to have joined Him.

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John 17:24 *“Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”*

If we aren't following after Him how can we behold him?

Mat 6:21 *“...for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

Mat 6:22 *“The eye is the lamp of the body; so then, if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.”*

Mephibosheth's Response

2Sa 19:26 *So he said, “My lord the king, my servant betrayed me; for your servant said, ‘I will saddle the donkey for myself so that I may ride on it and go with the king,’ since your servant cannot walk.*

2Sa 19:27a *“Furthermore, **he has slandered your servant to my lord the king;***

Here is the slander:

2Sa 16:3 *Then the king said, “And where is your master's son?” And Ziba said to the king, “Behold, he is staying in Jerusalem, for he said, ‘Today the house of Israel will restore the kingdom of my father to me.’”*

2Sa 16:4 *So the king said to Ziba, “Behold, all that belongs to Mephibosheth is yours.” And Ziba said, “I prostrate myself; may I find favor in your sight, my lord, the king!”*

Ziba took all that Mephibosheth planned to bring to the King to aid him in his plight. And left Mephibosheth alone unable to leave the city. This is much like what the accuser the devil does.

Have you tried to “serve the Lord” in your strength, thinking I will come to His aid?

“Here, I will win this person for Him!” Have you packed a bunch of good intentions, only to be robbed of them all and, because of fear, do not end up following Him? Much like Peter who promised to follow Jesus to the cross yet ended up denying him not once but three times! Remember who we are, Mephibosheth! We are cripples who eat at the King's table. Part of this accusation of Ziba's is true, but remember who is the King.

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When we think we are coming to the aid of the King we are starting to think we are the King.

The King never leaves nor forsakes us

Look at what happens in Mephibosheth's response:

2Sa 19:27a *but my lord the king is like the angel of God, therefore do what is good in your sight.*

2Sa 19:28 *"For all my father's household was only people **worthy of death** to my lord the king; yet you placed your servant among those who ate at your own table. So what right do I still have, that I should complain anymore to the king?"*

Often, we make excuses for our sins. We love to use the word "but" in our confessions which negates the confession and blames something or someone else. In this instance, Mephibosheth had a legitimate excuse, but notice what happens in the face of the King. He remembers His kindness and throws himself at his mercy.

It is in repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21) that we are enabled to see clearly. Why is it if we confess our sins one to another [and pray for one another] we will be healed? (Jas. 5:16) We can help each other to continue looking to Jesus so we may be full of light and not darkness

Jesus prayed for Peter that His faith may not fail. He prays for us in this way also! He wants us to be with Him, knowing His Grace is sufficient!

Consider it all "Joy"?

Jas 1:2 *Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various trials,*

Jas 1:3 *knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.*

Jas 1:4 *And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

Jas 1:5 *But if any of you **lacks wisdom**, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

We can ask for true wisdom which is the comprehension of the love of God in Christ

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Jesus. The Holy Spirit that dwells in us helps and comforts us in this [reality].

David, like His son Solomon, is endowed with true wisdom. Recall how Solomon settles an argument between two women over who is the real mother of a child. He asks for a **sword** to cut the child in two. This wisdom exposes the hearts of the women and the true mother is seen. King David uses the same wisdom to discern Mephibosheth's heart:

2Sa 19:29 *So the king said to him, "Why do you still speak of your affairs? I have decided, 'You and Ziba shall **divide the land.**'"*

Mephibosheth's heart is revealed and Ziba's accusations are seen for the lies they were. His response is: **Let him even take it all, since my lord the king has come safely to his own house**

The living and active Word reveals the heart of God

Heb 4:12 *For the word of God is living and active, and **sharper than any two-edged sword**, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and **able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.***

Now, as we stand in the new covenant, the "shame of the face" (bosheth) is replaced with the face of Christ. No shame, and no condemnation! (Rom. 8:1) The sword now both heals and cuts out all that we hold to that is not Christ!

May we all grow together in our understanding of the love of God in Christ Jesus and may we, like the Psalmist Asaph, say:

Psa 73:25 *Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.*

Psa 73:26 *My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.*

May we comprehend the vastness of the love of God in Christ Jesus so that as Zechariah prophesies in **Luk 1:74b-75** *that we, being rescued from the hand of our enemies, **Would serve Him without fear**, In holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.*