

CENTERED**GRACE**

2 Samuel 9

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August 24/25, 2019

MESSAGE NOTES**Mephibosheth's story...**

- A commitment remembered
- A descendent identified
- An outcast rescued
- A mercy granted
- An adoption completed

Our story...

1. We too were in desperate need of a rescue, with no hope on our own.

But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions ... — Ephesians 2:4 – 5

I imagine myself as the most wretched of all, full of sores and sins, and one who had committed all sorts of crimes against his King. Feeling deep sorrow, I confess to Him all of my sins, I ask Him for forgiveness, and I abandon myself into His hands so that He may do with me what He pleases. The King, full of mercy and goodness, very far from chastening me, embraces me with love, invites me to feast at His table, serves me with His own hands, and gives me the key to His treasures. ... This is how I imagine myself from time to time in His holy presence. Yes, this view of God can inspire us to take the time to go with Him, to let go of false securities, and to come out of hiding. — Brother Lawrence

2. We too are the recipients of amazing undeserved grace.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. — Ephesians 2:8

Believers who are the most desperate about themselves are the ones who express most forcefully their confidence in grace ... Those who are the most pessimistic about man are the most optimistic about God; those who are the most severe with themselves are the ones who have the most serene confidence in divine forgiveness ... By degrees the awareness of our guilt and of God's grace increase side by side. — Paul Tournier

3. We too simply come as we are with no pretense of our own worthiness.

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. — Titus 3:4 – 5

How strange that we should ordinarily feel compelled to hide our wounds when we are all wounded! Community requires the ability to expose our wounds and weaknesses to our fellow creatures. It also requires the ability to be affected by the wounds of others ... But even more important is the love that arises among us when we share, both ways, our woundedness. — M. Scott Peck, A Different Drum

4. We too are adopted as sons and daughters of the King.

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith ... You are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are His child, God has made you also an heir. — Galatians 3:26 & 4:7

*If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. — J.I. Packer, *Knowing God**

*See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!
— 1 John 3:1*

5. We too have a hope and a future all because of love.

We so often fail to come close to God because we cannot possibly believe that God would be kind enough to care about us, to provide us with answers, to give us hope, and to gently renew us. ... We need eyes to see and seeing eyes are eyes of faith ... Eyes that look beyond the problem ... Eyes that look beyond our own unworthiness ... Eyes that look with confidence to God of all grace and mercy. — Henry Nouwen

Giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of His holy people in the kingdom of light. For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. — Colossians 1:12 – 14

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Take some time to read or review 2 Samuel 9.
- What are some thoughts or emotions that hit you while meditating on Mephibosheth's story?
- How do you think Mephibosheth felt when David's men summoned him to the palace? Do you see any parallels with how many people respond when invited to consider God's love for them?
- How do you think Mephibosheth felt sitting at the king's table surrounded by the king's other sons and daughters?
- Are there ways in which you've felt out of place in Christ's church? Are there things in your past that make you feel ashamed or unworthy or "less" than others?
- How could our feelings of inadequacy actually be part of God's blessing on our lives—drawing us toward His grace?
- What is sometimes frightening to us about the idea of surrender, even surrender to God?
- How has your understanding of God's love grown or become clarified for you over the span of your life?
- Can you identify any ways personally right now where your sense of inadequacy is causing you to trust God at a deeper level?
- As you move into this week, what truths would you like to spend more time thinking about and applying in your own life?