

Beaverton Foursquare
 Sunday A.M. 8/21/16
 David part 13
 Pastor Randy Remington

Treated Like Royalty

Notes in red:

Today's passage and message is designed to lead us into communion.

David and Jonathon should have been enemies, but they entered into a covenant of friendship:

- A covenant doesn't have an expiration date.
- "...unfailing kindness" 1 Sam 20:14-16, best reflected in God's "hessed"
- Saul/Jonathon's line should have been terminated in Mephibosheth.
 Normally an incoming king (David) would kill all relatives of the previous king to eliminate any challenge to his reign.

"But show me unfailing kindness like that of the Lord as long as I live, so that I may not be killed, and do not ever cut off your kindness from my family—not even when the Lord has cut off every one of David's enemies from the face of the earth." (1 Samuel 20:14-16)

"Jonathan son of Saul had a son who was lame in both feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel. His nurse picked him up and fled, but as she hurried to leave, he fell and became crippled. His name was Mephibosheth." (2 Samuel 4:4)

Things were going really well in Israel.

What you do when things are going really well is a test of character.

David's inclination is to do something for someone else.

- David asked about showing kindness to *anyone* from the House of Saul
- He wanted to demonstrate "...God's kindness..."
- There's something powerful when you've been forgotten and someone remembers your name; when the king calls your name.
- Restoration (1) and promotion (2): "...all, everything that belonged to Saul's household (1)...you will always eat at my table (2)..."

"David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake? "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. 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." "Where is he?" the king asked. Ziba answered, "He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar." "So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel. 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. "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." Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your

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." Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?" 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. 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.) 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 table like one of the king's sons. Mephibosheth had a young son named Mika, and all the members of Ziba's household were servants of Mephibosheth. And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king's table; he was lame in both feet." (2

Samuel 9:1-13)

"Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain...(he or she) who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind." (Psalm 15:1, 4b)

"And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the in-comparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:6-7)

Unfailing love, kindness = *hessed* (Heb., lit. loyal love); the unfailing loving kindness that is at the heart of the covenant between God and his people. "I will be your God and you will be my people."

Psalm 136 uses *hessed* as a refrain; "His love endures forever."
This committed love endures despite circumstances

God's Hessed points us to three things:

1. The King Loves Us –Kindness = Love in action.

- More than words; actions demonstrate the king's love
- In the story David represents God and Mephibosheth represents us
- The name Mephibosheth means "shameful thing"
- The king loves those you don't deserve his love
- He loves those who live in Lo Debar (lit, "desolate place")
- His love meets us where we are, but doesn't leave us there.
- Eph 2:6-7 expresses the Kings love in Jesus; seated in the presence of the King
- Psalm 139 illustrates how/what God thinks of us; what the people who are most important think of you has a powerful impact on you.

Illustration: When Sandy was becoming serious about Randy and contemplating marriage, she spoke with Pastor Ron Mehl about it and Ron's first response was to ask, "Is he kind?"

Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32)

"As God's chosen people, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." (Colossians 3:12)

2. The King Seeks Us –

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- Kindness goes on the hunt; it gives careful thought to how it might bless another. Kindness is more than reacting to needs we see; it is seeking those needs out.

Illustration: In his senior year of HS, it came over the loudspeaker one day, "Randy Remington report to the principal's office." Randy thought it was about a disciplinary matter, but he had won an essay contest for a scholarship to go to DC and see the government in action. Mephibosheth must have felt like he was in trouble when the king's men came for him.

- "Who am I, but a dead dog..." was Mephibosheth's response to David's kindness
- No one deserves the King's kindness
- In our brokenness and sin we *want* to turn our face from God, but his kindness seeks us. It is the kindness and love of God that leads us to towards him from our sin (repentance).
- It is impossible to be a thankful person without an understanding of grace; God's initiative of kindly inclination towards us.

"Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control...and (add) to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins."

(2 Peter 1:5-9)

"Lo de bar" à a place of no pasture, desolate and barren.

*"Or do you show **contempt** for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?" **(Romans 2:4)***

3. The King Transforms Us

- Kindness is more than good and generous acts
- It invites us into relationship that changes us ("...ate at the king's table like one of his sons...")
- "Kindness will not let your history lie to you and tell you what your future looks like."
- Max Lucado, "If you don't preach forgiveness, maybe you forgot what it's like to be guilty. If you don't preach salvation, maybe you've forgotten what it's like to be lost."
- The King's table changes us because He *wants* to fellowship with us and change us (Rev 3:20; Luke 22:15)

*"So Mephibosheth ate at David's table like one of the king's sons." **(:11b)***

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and share a meal with him."

(Revelation 3:20)

- **Don't reject his kindness it invites destruction.**
- **Rejoice in the favor of the king.**
- **Reflect on God's kindness and notice others. Who will you pursue?**

- Reflect on God's kindness and notice others. Who will you pursue?

Communion passage:

*"At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. **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. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:3-7)*