

Men's Sunday Night
A Study in the Life of David
A Man After God's Own Heart
Lesson 8 – 2 Samuel 8-9

Chapter 8

David made a name for himself in the Valley of Salt, probably the wasteland plain southwest of the Dead Sea. But while his exploits greatly increased his reputation among his people, they were sowing lasting bitterness elsewhere that would come back to haunt his son Solomon. Years later after David had died and his son Solomon had turned away from the Lord, God allowed a man named Hadad to come back to Palestine, where he became a continual thorn in Solomon's side.

Chapter 9

Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan was a member of a rejected family. He was a son of a prince, yet was living in dependence on others away from the city of Jerusalem. He was lame in both his feet and thus could not walk. We would never have heard of Mephibosheth were it not for the gracious steps David took to save him. This grew out of the loving covenant that David had made with Jonathan years before. David had never seen Mephibosheth, yet he loved him for Jonathan's sake. "*Fear not!*" were David's words of grace to the trembling crippled man; and "*Fear not!*" is what Christ says to every believing sinner.

The contrast for Mephibosheth was between death and life. It is the same for us. Born in Adam only, we are sentenced to death. Born again in Christ, we are given life. You and I have done nothing to earn the grace, which has been given to us by God, through Christ. We are like Mephibosheth, born into a family which, without grace would be condemned to die. How truly surprised he must have been when he realized that, not only was he not going to be killed, but even more amazing he was going to be loved and blessed. Not because of anything he had done, but because of the grace of David, and his love for his father Jonathan. So, we too have been "*accepted in the beloved,*" blessed by the grace of God because of His love for His Son Jesus.

Read 2 Samuel 8:1-8 and answer the following questions:

1. How did David do in his battles with Israel's traditional enemies? Who did he defeat? What was the result?
2. What unusual step did David take when he captured a thousand chariot horses? (See 8:4)
3. Describe the spoils that David took.

Read 2 Samuel 8:9-18 and answer the following questions:

4. Who acted peaceably towards David? What did he do? (See 8:9-10)
5. What did David do with the valuable articles and precious metals he captured in his campaigns? (See 8:11-12) What can we learn from this about David?
6. What did the Lord do for David wherever he went? Why? (See 8:6, 14)

Read 2 Samuel 9:1-8 and answer the following questions:

7. What commitment did David remember when he was established in the kingship of Israel? What do you believe was his reasoning for honoring this commitment?

8. Verse 3 describes Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, as being crippled in both feet. Why do you think Mephibosheth's nurse fled with him at the news of Saul's death? (For a comparable story see 2 Kings 11:1-3)

9. What promises did David make to Mephibosheth? How did he expect to be treated by David? Why did Mephibosheth have reason to be afraid of David?

Read 2 Samuel 9:9-13 and answer the following questions:

10. What commands did David give to Ziba concerning Mephibosheth? (9:9-10)

11. Why did Mephibosheth live in Jerusalem from this time onward although his family's lands were elsewhere? What special provision did David make because of Mephibosheth's disability? (See 9:13)

12. In what ways is the grace shown by David a reminder of God's grace toward us?

A Day of Worship

Psalm 96:8-9

For most Christians, Sunday is a day for going to church. However, once an hour or two of formal church attendance is over, Sunday often becomes little more than a day off from the routine of the week. People use it for recreation and entertainment, or to catch up on chores and errands. Is that what it means to “give to the LORD the glory due His name,” and to “worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness” (Ps. 96:8–9)?

True worship means focusing on the Lord rather than ourselves. The Israelites were commanded to devote one day out of seven to focus on God (Ex. 20:8–11). To do that, they were told to cease from their normal labors, just as God ceased, or paused, from His work of creation on the seventh day.

Christians are not bound to keep the Sabbath, but they are commanded to worship the Lord together, and traditionally this has occurred on the first day of the week. The point of making Sunday an anchor in the weekly rhythm is to remind us of who we are in relation to God. Worship and stopping from labor help to redirect our focus from ourselves to God. Used for these purposes, Sunday reminds us of our dependence on God for the gift of life, the skills by which we work and live, and the privilege of using all that God has given us as resources on loan. Practically speaking, we can use Sunday for its intended purpose by:

1. Ceasing from our work and getting away from the routines of labor.
2. Pausing to reflect on what has happened during the previous week, and interpreting our experience through the eyes of faith.
3. Engaging in activities that help to restore and nurture our inner life.
4. Praying through the many areas of our life, focusing on God rather than just on ourselves, by making extensive use of scripture as we form our prayers.
5. Joining together with other believers to worship the Lord, praise His name, and celebrate life together.