

Loving the Lame: A Case of Undeserved Kindness

2 Samuel 9

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Question: Who do you show kindness to most of the time: Those who deserve it? Or those who cannot repay it?

Theme of Text: David showed kindness to lame Mephibosheth. Jesus shows lovingkindness to us sinners on the cross. We can model the Gospel by showing grace to those who don't deserve it.

David was looking for someone to show kindness. (v.1)

- David had a heart to do good.
- David honored the covenant he made with Jonathan (1 Sam 20:42).

David shows kindness to one who can't repay. (vv.2-5)

- David's kindness stems from God.
- Crippled from childhood (2 Sam 4:4); contributing nothing.
- David's kindness summons, sends for, and sees him safely back.

David's kindness changes a stranger into a son. (vv.6-8)

- David restores Saul's estate to Mephibosheth.
- David establishes a relationship where there was none.

David's kindness spills over to bless others. (vv.9-11)

- David's kindness to Mephibosheth blesses Ziba and family.

David's kindness transforms Mephibosheth. (vv.12-13)

- Mephibosheth: alone but now grows a family.
- Mephibosheth: exiled but now at home.
- Mephibosheth: enemy but now dines with the king.
- Mephibosheth: lame but now loved.

The *Hesed* of David is the Lovingkindness of God.

- *Hesed*=lovingkindness or steadfast love (OT); grace (NT).
- David shows covenant kindness toward Mephibosheth having learned it from the covenant kindness of His God.
- We are Mephibosheth.
- Jesus displayed this same covenant kindness to us on the cross.
- Having received the *Hesed* of God, who can you show grace to now?

Final Thought: Treat others the same way you want them to treat you; be merciful just as your Father is merciful. (Luke 6:31-36)