

After God's Own Heart: The Kings Table

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Good morning church

It's great to be back with you this morning

My name is Rob, I am one of the ministers on staff here at WellSpring. I

If this is your first time here, we are glad to have you, if you are joining us online or watching this later, we are excited to worship with you as well.

This morning we are going to continue in a series we have been in for a few weeks now we have titled "After God's own heart".

This series focuses on the person of David, King of Israel and man chosen by God. David has taken on the moniker of "A man after God's own Heart"

David was chosen by God not because of his physical abilities as a warrior or because he was dashing handsome, no, instead he was chosen by God because of his heart.

Last week we looked at a darker spot marked David's heart after his moral failure with the woman Bathsheba.

Our hope in that story is not that we will never do wrong again, we will, instead our hope is that when those spots on our lives are marked, they don't have to define our entire story.

David, who was an imperfect man, was still a man after God's own heart despite his failures. That opportunity is available for all of us as well.

This morning we are going to focus more in depth on what I believe to be the most Christ like action David ever took. Hundreds of years before Jesus was on earth, David, through his actions in our story this morning, presents the gospel in an incredible way.

In this passage today, we hear the story of King David, and a man named Mephibosheth.

Now this is not, as you can imagine, the most popular name we find in scripture.

Before going to bed I don't think any kids are saying "mom can you tell me the one about Mephibosheth tonight?"

His name is not cool at all

But his story is incredibly cool.

Let me give you some background

- King David became the King of Israel because he was chosen by God. Before that though was the first king of Israel, king Saul.
- A few weeks ago, Barry opened our series by talking about King David as a worshipper. While David worshipped in a few ways, one of the ways was as a musician. So, Saul brought David in to play the lyre.
- During this time, David became friends with Saul's son, Jonathon. They were incredibly close.
- When Saul realized that David was in line to be King based off what God has decided, he plotted to have David killed.

Take a look at this passage from 1 Samuel 31:

Now the Philistines fought against Israel; the Israelites fled before them, and many fell dead on Mount Gilboa. **2** The Philistines were in hot pursuit of Saul and his sons, and they killed his sons Jonathan, Abinadab and Malki-Shua. **3** The fighting grew fierce around Saul, and when the archers overtook him, they wounded him critically.

4 Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword and run me through, or these uncircumcised fellows will come and run me through and abuse me."

Here we see the death of King Saul and all of his sons. But the son that David was close friends with Jonathon, is what sticks out to us.

At the close of 1 Samuel we see the death of Saul and his sons, and then the beginning of 2 Samuel we see the response to such news.

David is the King, and he hears the news of Saul and Jonathon in Chapter 1 of 2 Samuel. We read this in 2 Samuel 11-12:

11 Therefore David took hold of his own clothes and tore them, and *so did* all the men who *were* with him. **12** And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son, for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

In fact, David goes on to sing a song of his grief later in 2 Samuel 1. Start with me in verse 23.

“Saul and Jonathan *were* beloved and pleasant in their lives,
And in their death they were not divided;
They were swifter than eagles,
They were stronger than lions.

24 “O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,
Who clothed you in scarlet, with luxury;
Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.

25 “How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle!
Jonathan *was* slain in your high places.

26 I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan;
You have been very pleasant to me;
Your love to me was wonderful,
Surpassing the love of women.

27 “How the mighty have fallen,
And the weapons of war perished!”

It is noticeably clear that here we see David grieving the loss of this family.

Which is strange for someone who was consistently trying to be killed by Saul, to mourn him and his family so deeply.

But already we are learning that David is a King who, at this point, is unlike other kings.

David was a king who was unlike other Kings because he knew who the true king was.

So, what was normal for a King to do became out of Character for David, and the things that were out of character for most kings became normalcies to David. In many ways he flipped the narrative of what being King means.

Most kings would have not just celebrated the death of the enemy in Saul, but they would have sought out and killed all of the members of Saul's lineage so that none of them could return to take revenge or attempt to reclaim the throne.

The wise move of David would have been to celebrate Saul's death and have any family members in Saul's line killed.

But David knew the true King and it changed his behavior.

This morning, our goal is to look at our behaviors and see how they need to change considering who our King is.

Turn now in your bibles to 2 Samuel 9

Here we read the story of a young cripple named Mephibosheth.

Mephibosheth is the Grandson of the late King Saul and the son of Jonathon, David's friend.

Mephibosheth was a 5-year-old when his housekeeper carried him out of the city which was under siege, and she tripped. He was crippled and unable to walk ever since. He lived his life not as a child or grandchild of royalty, but as another crippled in the city.

In fact, Mephibosheth was so far from royalty, I always imagined him being a beggar on the streets.

Read with me in 2 Samuel 9 starting in verse 1:

Now David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

2 And *there was* a servant of the house of Saul whose name *was* Ziba. So, when they had called him to David, the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?"

He said, "At your service!"

3 Then the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?"

And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan *who is* lame in *his* feet."

David went to one of the servants who used to serve Saul, to ask about the line of Saul. Is there anyone left?

She says there is Lame in his feet. This we know, is Mephibosheth.

So, David sends Mephibosheth to be brought to the palace where David was.

Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, "Mephibosheth?"

And he answered, "Here is your servant!"

Let's stop for a moment and think about what would have gone through Mephibosheth's mind here:

I am going to die

Mephibosheth knows that Kings, once they figure out who the previous line is, will kill them. This is ordinary. But David and his kingship were far from normal. David knew Mephibosheth would be scared though, so here is what he tells him

So, David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually."

Guys, the Kings table is no joke.

It's like the fanciest of tables and it tells us a lot about where David is placing this crippled boy Mephibosheth.

And having been crippled and on the Run since he was 5, I bet Mephibosheth was not very used to the fancy life. He walked in not knowing what to do or how to act.

(Story of The Well Gala)



How I felt at the nice Well Gala I am sure was amplified when Mephibosheth walked in and was brought to the table of King David. He felt out of place. Read on in 2 Samuel with me after David tells Mephibosheth he would eat at his table:

8 Then he bowed himself, and said, "What *is* your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?"

And the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house. **10** You therefore, and your sons and your servants, shall work the land for him, and you shall bring in *the harvest*, that your master's son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's son shall eat bread at my table always." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

11 Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will your servant do."

David then looks at the crippled Mephibosheth and keeps talking in verse 12

"As for Mephibosheth," *said the king*, "he shall eat at [c]my table like one of the king's sons." **12** Mephibosheth had a young son whose name *was* Micha. And all who dwelt in the house of Ziba *were* servants of Mephibosheth. **13** So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table. And he was lame in both his feet.

Church, do you see the relationship here yet?

Mephibosheth, who was the equivalent of a dead dog, was brought to have a seat at the king's table. Not because of anything he did, but simply because of who his father was.

The language is strong, but considering who Jesus is, I am no better on paper than a dead dog as well.

We are all as low as they come because of our brokenness. We are crippled by our sin just as Mephibosheth was, but our King looks past our brokenness because He cares for us.

Listen to what Paul says in the book of Romans 3 about sin:

What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews, and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. **10** As it is written:

“There is no one righteous, not even one;

11 there is no one who understands;

there is no one who seeks God.

12 All have turned away,

they have together become worthless;

there is no one who does good,

not even one.”[[b](#)]

13 “Their throats are open graves;

their tongues practice deceit.”[[c](#)]

“The poison of vipers is on their lips.”[[d](#)]

14 “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”[[e](#)]

15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

16 ruin and misery mark their ways,

17 and the way of peace they do not know.”[[f](#)]

18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”[[g](#)]

Based off of Paul's words here, we are all doomed. Like Mephibosheth we are doomed to be beggars on the street outside of the Glory of God.

Sin is this nasty broken thing that has created a gap between us and our King.

Righteousness is something we are not able to achieve on our own.

Do you know what righteousness means?

Righteousness – The ability to stand before God without guilt

There is nobody, according to Paul, who is righteous. Nobody on our own can stand before God without guilt because we are crippled by our sin. In the same way that Mephibosheth was unable to stand before his King.

But the king does not have to judge us based off who we are.

Mephibosheth was brought to the Kings table not because David looked and Mephibosheth and thought he was worthy. But because David looked at his friend Jonathon who was worthy and allowed that to apply to his son, broken as he was.

When God looks at you and I He will see us as unrighteous, we will not be able to stand before him without guilt. But praise the name of the Lord our God that He does not look at us.

He looks at his son Jesus.

Jesus – who lived a perfect life and walked in righteousness. Jesus who never had the mess of sin in His life. God sent him so that when we stand before him, he does not see my unrighteousness, but He sees Jesus' righteousness.

Keep reading farther in Romans to chapter 5 starting in verse 6

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. **7** Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. **8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! **10** For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! **11** Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

All of this because our God wants us to have a seat at His table.

Close with the glass analogy- *ding