

“The Kindness of the King” **2 Samuel 9:1-13**

Intro: How can we be equipped and motivated to display kindness to our community? Answer: Get acquainted with the kindness of God.

The Point: We must reflect the kindness of God from gracious and generous hearts.

I. When we reflect God’s kindness, we will be gracious to the undeserving.

- David had made a promise to Jonathan, his greatest friend. 1 Samuel 20:15 tells us that Jonathan said to David, “and do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever, when the Lord cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.” David kept his covenant with Jonathan. He was a man of his Word.
- And so he asks in verse one, “Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake?”
- Can you imagine this poor, crippled young man before the king? hearing these words? As he is there on his knees, he looks up at David and he is stunned, joyfully stunned!
- Verse 3 says that David desired to demonstrate “the kindness of God” (3)
- David desired to reflect the character of God’s kindness. This word “kindness” is one of the most important for our understanding of God in the Old Testament. It is the Hebrew word, “*chesed*.” It can be translated: lovingkindness, steadfast love, or as we have here, simply “kindness.”
- Psalm 63:3: “[the] steadfast love [of the Lord] is better than life.”
- “Love is patient and kind” (1 Cor. 13:4)
- “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, *kindness* . . .” (Galatians 5:22) David’s kindness is both like God’s in its character and from God
- “The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.” Psalm 145:17
- The kindness of God is on display all throughout this parable. David extends grace to Mephibosheth.
- Kindness involves extending benevolence to the undeserving.

II. When we reflect God’s kindness, we will be generous to the undeserving.

- The picture of David’s kindness is one of complete generosity. He did not simply bless him *materially*. More importantly, he blessed him *relationally*. David gave him access to his table.
- Of those times, twice it is a direct quotation from David and he says, “he will eat at *my* table.” This is intensely personal. David wanted Mephibosheth to eat at *his* table.
- On three different occasions, it says he will “*always*” eat at his table.

III. Jesus is the true and better King of kindness.

- All of Scripture testifies to Jesus Christ. Jesus said this multiple times. In John 5:46, “If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me.” In Luke 24:44, he told his disciples, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”
- Jesus is the true and better David, the true and better King. How?
- Jesus is always true to his word. He always delivers on his promises.
 - “I will never leave you or forsake you.” (Josh 1:5)

- “The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him” (Ps. 103:17)
- “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your paths.”
- “Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Mt. 11:28
- “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him. . .” 2 Peter 1:3
- It’s not that Jesus is faithful to keep his word, he is also the true and better King of kindness:
 - The supremacy of the gospel: We do not eat at the king's table like one of his sons. We eat at his table *as sons*. He has adopted us into his family.
 - When you look in the mirror, I hope you see a Mephibosheth staring back at you. This is who we are: completely needy, completely helpless, spiritually lame in both feet, and until we see this, we will know nothing of God’s salvation. “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy” (Titus 3:4-5)
 - We will only bear the fruit of kindness as we depend on him. Jesus said in John 15:5, “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

Kindness is inherently others-focused. It takes the posture of a servant, takes a towel, and asks: “How can I help them? How can I serve them? How can I meet their need? How can I demonstrate the love of God to them?”

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to *love kindness*, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)