

You are justified (Rom 5:1).

You are perfect (Heb 10:14).

You have been adopted (Rom 8:15).

You have access to God at any moment (Eph 2:18).

You are part of His priesthood (1 Pet 2:5).

You will never be abandoned (Heb 13:5).

You have an imperishable inheritance (1 Pet 1:4).

You are:

a member of His body (1 Cor 12:13),

a branch in the vine (John 15:5),

a stone in the building (Eph 2:19-22),

a bride for the Groom (Eph 5:25-27),

a priest in the new generation (1 Pet 2:9), and

a dwelling place of the Spirit (1 Cor 6:19)

Paul's words to us dead dogs:

Ephesians 4: ⁴

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in

our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you

have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him

in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come He

might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us

in Christ Jesus.

No wonder it's called amazing!

Doxology

Romans 11:33-36:

³³ *Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How*

unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! ³⁴ For who has

known the mind of the Lord, or who has been His counselor? ³⁵ Or who has

ever given to God, that God should repay him? ³⁶ For from Him and through

Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

Series: Biblical Gen. Ed.

Title: No Wonder It's Called Amazing

Topic: Kindness

Introduction:

A story is told about Fiorello LaGuardia, who, when he was mayor of New York City during the worst days of the Great Depression and all of WWII, was called by adoring New Yorkers 'the Little Flower' because he was only five foot four and always wore a carnation in his lapel. He was a colorful character who used to ride the New York City fire trucks, raid speakeasies with the police department, take entire orphanages to baseball games, and whenever the New York newspapers were on strike, he would go on the radio and read the Sunday funnies to the kids. One bitterly cold night in January of 1935, the mayor turned up at a night court that served the poorest ward of the city. LaGuardia dismissed the judge for the evening and took over the bench himself.

Within a few minutes, a tattered old woman was brought before him, charged with stealing a loaf of bread. She told LaGuardia that her daughter's husband had deserted her, her daughter was sick, and her two grandchildren were starving. But the shopkeeper, from whom the bread was stolen, refused to drop the charges. *"It's a real bad neighborhood, your Honor."* the man told the mayor. *"She's got to be punished to teach other people around here a lesson."* LaGuardia sighed. He turned to the woman and said *"I've got to punish you. The law makes no exceptions--ten dollars or ten days in jail."* But even as he pronounced sentence, the mayor was already reaching into his pocket. He extracted a bill and tossed it into his famous sombrero saying: *"Here is the ten dollar fine which I now remit; and furthermore I am going to fine everyone in this courtroom fifty cents for living in a town where a person has to steal bread so that her grandchildren can eat. Mr. Bailiff, collect the fines and give them to the defendant."*

So the following day the New York City newspapers reported that \$47.50 was turned over to a bewildered old lady who had stolen a loaf of bread to feed her starving grandchildren, fifty cents of that amount being contributed by the red-faced grocery store owner, while some seventy petty criminals, people with traffic violations, and New York City policemen, each of whom had just paid fifty cents for the privilege of doing so, gave the mayor a standing ovation.

Background for our text:

About 16 years before 2 Samuel 9, Saul and Jonathan were killed. David then became king and led many military victories. In chapter 7, we can read how David then wanted to build a wonderful house for God...but God said, "no thanks" and instead explained all that He would do for David and his line. David was astounded and said, *Is this your usual way of dealing with man, O Sovereign Lord?* On the

heels of that statement, and more thanks being given to God by David, we come to today's account with David desiring to show kindness to Saul's heirs.

Lesson:

2 Samuel 9:1-13

2 Samuel 4:4 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 disabled. His name was Mephibosheth.

The word for "**kindness**" is also translated "**goodness, mercy, favor, and loving kindness.**" It is the Old Testament equivalent to the New Testament word "**Grace.**"

David did this, not because the house of Saul deserved it, but because of his relationship with Jonathan, and because of two promises he had made years before.

What motivated David to extend this kindness to Mephibosheth?

22 years previous: Jonathan said to David:

1 Samuel 20:15-16: *You must never stop showing your kindness to my family, even when the Lord has destroyed all your enemies from the earth. So Jonathan made an agreement with David.*

David had promised both Jonathan and Saul that he would not totally destroy their offspring, **1 Sam. 20:13-17; 1 Sam. 24:20-22.**

Kindness does not concern itself with a man's background, his surroundings, his abilities, his appearance, his future potential, etc.

For just a moment, let's put ourselves in the sandals of Mephibosheth.

- He is living in a place called Lo-debar, which means "*no pasture*" or "*land of nothing*".
- He is living in someone else's house.
- He is a crippled man.
- He had inherited nothing but poverty and death from his family.
- He is probably living each day in fear for his life; afraid that King David will come and take his life away.

How Mephibosheth reacts:

- A. v. 6a **With a _____ heart – he bowed down to pay him honor.**
- B. v. 6b-7 **With a _____ heart – "I will surely show you kindness. I will restore to you all the land...you will always eat at my table."**
- C. v. 8 **With an _____ heart – "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?"**

The fruit of David's kindness:

- A. v. 9-11a **Kindness provided a _____ – " ...farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master's grandson may be provided for." Grace gave him the plenty of the King!**
- B. v. 11b **Kindness provided a _____ – So Mephibosheth ate at David's table like one of the king's sons.**

Paraphrase:

"The dinner bell rings through the king's palace and David comes to the head of the table and sits down. In a few moments Amnon – clever, crafty, Amnon – sits to the left of David. Lovely and gracious Tamar, a charming and beautiful young woman, arrives and sits beside Amnon. And then across the way, Solomon walks slowly out of his study; precocious, brilliant, preoccupied Solomon. The heir apparent slowly sits down. And then Absalom – handsome, winsome, Absalom with beautiful flowing hair, black as a raven, down to his shoulders – sits down. That particular evening Joab, the courageous warrior and David's commander of the troops, has been invited to dinner. Muscular, bronzed Joab is seated near the king. Afterward they wait. They hear the shuffling of feet, the clump, clump, clump of the crutches as Mephibosheth rather awkwardly finds his place at the table and slips into his seat...and the tablecloth covers his feet. I ask you: Did Mephibosheth understand grace?" C. Swindoll

How about us? Crippled by a fall...permanently marred by sin. Invited to take a place at God's table...

- You are beyond condemnation (Rom 8:1).
- You are delivered from the law (Rom 7:6).
- You are near God (Eph 2:13).
- You are delivered from the power of evil (Col 1:13).
- You are a member of His kingdom (col 1:13).