



# AGAINST ALL ODDS

THE  
WORD

## SESSION SNAPSHOT

GOOD WILL HUNTING

### NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

2 Samuel 9:1-13

### GOSPEL FOCUS:

1 Peter 4:10

### TAKEAWAYS:

- Receive grace from God
- Extend grace to others

### LAST WEEK'S READING:

- 2 Samuel 1; 2:1-7
- 2 Samuel 3:1; 5; Psalm 23
- 2 Samuel 6-7
- Psalm 18; 2 Samuel 9
- 2 Samuel 11-12

## KNOW THE WORD

### PASSAGE OVERVIEW

When Saul died, David, who had been anointed by God through Samuel to be the next king, had the rights to the throne--ahead of any remaining family that Saul had. But according to the pattern of the day, the throne technically could have gone to Jonathan's firstborn, who was named Mephibosheth. As David took the throne, Mephibosheth's nurse thought that his life was in danger and fled with him, injuring his feet in the process. There he lived, crippled and afraid for his life, until today's passage, when he heard a knock at the door and learned that it was King David--the one who he assumed was most likely there to kill him.

### COMMENTARY AND STUDY MATERIALS

- v.1 David and Jonathan had a long-standing covenantal relationship, which is defined by Jonathan's promise to David in 1 Samuel 20:15 to never withdraw his faithful love from David's household. Not even if the Lord got rid of all of David's enemies, no matter where they were.
- v.3 The kindness of God does not mean "kindness FROM God" so much as it means "kindness like the type of kindness God has." This sets the entire encounter with Mephibosheth to be exemplary of the kind of grace that God shows us.
- 2 Samuel 4:4 explains that, as Mephibosheth's nurse was fleeing what she understood to be a threat to his life, she dropped him, permanently crippling him. He likely lived his life with the unfading fear that the king was coming to kill him and he couldn't even run away from it.
- v.4, 7 David's questions as to whether there even was an heir of Saul, much less where he lived, lend credibility to Mephibosheth's pitiful condition. He was in absolute hiding and completely off the grid. When David came to his house, what David says speaks to this fear. "Don't be afraid," David was there to say. "I intend to show you kindness." These words come in stark contrast to what Mephibosheth had been expecting.
- v.10 This line contains a powerful sense of melancholy. In 1 Samuel 23:17, Jonathan predicted that one day David would be king over Israel and he, Jonathan, would be his second-in-command. Jonathan would undoubtedly have been dining with him, too. David's best friend and covenant brother's ill-fated prediction would have rung in his ears as Jonathan's crippled son dined continually at his table.

## STUDY THE WORD

We've all dreaded something at one point or another. A looming test. A difficult conversation. An encroaching deadline. We might even feel like the only thing we can do as it gets closer is sit and wait, not knowing what the outcome is going to be.

***When have you dreaded something coming up?***

***How did it make you feel to wait for it to get closer? What could you do to prepare for it?***

### OUT LOUD, READ 2 SAMUEL 9:1-6

Remember that Mephibosheth had lived his entire life dreading the moment that was now at his door. Once in line to be the next king, he was now a crippled man living on the run from the new king, and he was afraid that David was coming to take him out.

***What is so remarkable about David's attitude in these verses?***

***Have you ever known someone who went out of their way to find someone to show kindness to? Has anyone ever done this to you?***

***How do you think receiving this kind of kindness would make someone feel about God?***

David's intentional kindness wasn't something he was doing to make Mephibosheth or any of those looking at him think more highly of him. He wanted to, as he said, show someone the kindness of God--the sort of kindness that God has. Though we don't know for sure, this might have been the first time in Mephibosheth's life where he was not living in constant fear of something that he feared was coming for him.

### OUT LOUD, READ 2 SAMUEL 9:7-13

As you read, pay attention to both the words that David chooses when he greets Mephibosheth and the way that Mephibosheth responds.

***Why did David say that he showed Mephibosheth kindness?***

***Do you think Mephibosheth deserved the kindness? Why or why not?***

***Generally speaking, what do you think makes someone "deserving" of kindness?***

Mephibosheth hadn't done a thing to deserve the kindness he was showed, but that's what made David's actions so important here. Whether someone deserves it or not, kindness is something that believers in God pay forward--because we have been shown kindness, ourselves.

***How do you see a picture of the grace and kindness of God in these verses?***

***What does God's grace look like?***

The reason for the grace that David showed to Mephibosheth was the covenant he'd made with Jonathan, Mephibosheth's father, many years ago. Mephibosheth had done nothing to deserve it. In the same way, we, like Mephibosheth, receive grace from God for something that we did not do. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was sufficient to cover our sin and bring us into right fellowship with God. Even though we didn't do anything to deserve it, God still shows us grace.

***How did Mephibosheth respond to David's grace?***

***How did the grace David showed Mephibosheth spill over to the rest of the people who also lived with and around him?***

The blessing David gave Mephibosheth affected literally everyone in his family. Their lives were changed overnight, all because David reached out and extended kindness and grace to him.

Likewise, when we extend grace to those around us, it affects more than just one person. It can affect generations to come.

## **OUT LOUD, READ EPHESIANS 2:1-5**

***Briefly explain how God has shown you grace.***

***How can we express our gratitude for the grace God has shown us?***

***Has anyone ever shown you "the kindness of God" the way David showed it to Mephibosheth?***

The most catching line comes from verse 8: "What is your servant that you take an interest in a dead dog like me?" How often do we fall into the trap of approaching God casually or without gratitude for even the privilege in the first place? May we never lose the awe that comes from our salvation by grace through faith.

Once you understand the magnitude of God's grace, who He is, and who we are in response to that grace, it will affect all relationships in your life as well. Humility is not "thinking less of yourself," it is "thinking of yourself less."

## APPLY THE WORD

Once we see how God has shown us grace, or given us a gift that we certainly don't deserve, it is only natural to let that spill over to the people around us. It changes our demeanor. It re-aligns our priorities. A life lived in the freedom of Christ will be readily apparent to anybody looking on, and will be a life marked by joy and generosity--especially generosity when it comes to kindness.

Before you close your time in prayer, encourage those in your group to take a few minutes when you are done to answer the following and share updates next week:

***Who is someone I can go out of my way to show "the kindness of God" to this week?***

***How can I pattern my life to show this kind of kindness more regularly?***

## PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

***Next Week's Reading:***

- ***Psalm 51***
- ***2 Samuel 24; Psalm 24***
- ***Psalm 1; 19***
- ***Psalm 103; 119:1-48***
- ***Psalm 119:49-128***