

# The Kings Table

**Title:** Kindness and the King's Table

**Text:** 1 Samuel 9

**Introduction:** Who is Jonathan that David desired to show kindness to? Cf. I Samuel 20:12-17. The reason Saul was after David to kill him is one of the silliest, selfish reasons ever; cf. 1 Samuel 18:6-9. Jonathan helped David greatly to avoid the evil stricken Saul. Now years later, the Lord has stirred the heart of David to show kindness as he was shown kindness. See a theme here?

## POINT 1 - THE KINDNESS SEEKING (VS. 1)

The ruined house of Saul, and David seeks for some remnants to show kindness too. David had understood forgiveness, trusted God, and forgave those who had tried to kill him. Being forgiven of many things as a Christian, brings us to forgive and show kindness, 1 Peter 3:9, “**not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.**” Ephesians 4:31-32, “**Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.**” The key to this passage, and the key to showing kindness, mercy and forgiveness is you know what kindness, mercy and forgiveness is like. The fact is we don't deserve the mercy of God. But we cannot love, unless we first know what love is, and that's not a country song, it's knowing the love of God in forgiveness and mercy.

God is faithful to us, and let us not be unfaithful to show to others kindness. There's no formal contract in friendship, but as a Christian who has known the mercy, kindness of God, should extend that to those who need it. Job 6:14, “**For the despairing man there should be kindness from his friend.**” Proverbs 17:17, “**A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.**” This God centered friendship obliges us to extend the mercy and kindness of God to others.

## POINT 2 - KINDNESS AND MERCY RECEIVED (VS. 2-8)

Kindness follows God's example, for we are to be merciful to those who need mercy. Why? Because God is merciful to us. Again this request comes from 1 Samuel 20:14-15, “**If I am still alive, will you not show me the lovingkindness of the Lord, that I may not die? You shall not cut off your lovingkindness from my house forever.**”

Ziba is a long time servant of the family of Saul. He knew of the family's circumstances. He told of a son of Jonathan Mephibosheth. A little background for our text, he was crippled in both feet, he lived in obscurity in Lo Debar in Gilead. He was forgotten, as a dead dog, “**that you should regard a dead dog like me?**”

David sent for Mephibosheth from the house of Machir, who was a generous man who cared for Mephibosheth. Because he was a generous man we see later in 2 Samuel 17:27-29, “**Now when David had come to Mahanaim, Shobi the son of Nahash from Rabbah of the sons of Ammon, Machir the son of Ammiel from Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim, brought beds, basins, pottery, wheat, barley, flour, parched grain, beans, lentils, parched seeds, honey, curds, sheep, and**

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cheese of the herd, for David and for the people who *were* with him, to eat; for they said, “The people are hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness.” Kindness extended later to David by his kindness to take Mephibosheth. You see how this works? As Mephibosheth is brought to David, he falls prostrate to him.

- David received him with every possible kindness
- He told him not to fear, he assured him that he had sent for him not for punishment but for a blessing
- He gives him his paternal estate, which makes him wealthy. Matthew Henry notes, “*True friendship is generous.*”

Mephibosheth was lame and unsightly. He did not appear to be fit for work. David took him in as his own to sit at the table regularly with him. He did so because of his father’s sake.

### POINT 3 - THE INHERITANCE OF A BLESSING (VS. 9-13)

Ziba is called to witness the gift of Saul’s land to Mephibosheth. It was given to him. No debt. No payment. No contact. It was a free gift. It appears Saul’s lands were massive estates, fields and vineyards. However big it was, Mephibosheth is now master of it all. We also have an inheritance today as Christians, “*also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory*” (Ephesians 1:11-14). All that the Father has is our possession.

### POINT 4 - THE LAME AT THE KINGS TABLE

We know that David was a type of Christ in many ways. His root and offspring, let his kindness to Mephibosheth serve to demonstrate the kindness and love of God our Savior toward fallen humanity, which He is under no obligation to do. Thus, David was to Jonathan.

Humans have been convicted by God of rebellion and are under the judgement of God as the house of Saul was. Not only have we been brought low and made poor, we are lame and impotent from the fall. We have been banished to Lo-Debar to live as dead dogs.

Romans 3:11 describes every human soul, “*None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God.*” We are lame in our efforts to save ourselves. We are lame in our efforts to produce enough righteous works to satisfy the wrath of God. We are orphans in our natural state, John 14:17-19, “*that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.*” Here this great hope. God rescues us from the orphanage of sin.

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As lame, impotent people, we didn't seek God. Mephibosheth didn't seek David, it was David who sought him. David did not have any legal precedence to do this. Nor does God have an obligation to save you. Consider this, "that David would have any compassion at all toward Saul or his family was extraordinary. Saul made David's life enormously difficult for years, forcing him into nomadic exile, causing David to live in caves and on the run."<sup>1</sup> Consider who you were. Consider the depths of Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." The even when is enormous as we have talked about in the past. It's at this point you were undeserving of any kindness or grace. But God...

By right, David could have taken everything that belonged to Saul. The Bible is a redemptive book. Everything in the Scriptures point to a redeeming grace of God. In the Garden of Eden it was God who provided an atonement, Genesis 3:21, "The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them." Who clothed them? Who sought them in the Garden? David, who was relentlessly pursued by Saul, showed kindness and mercy to Mephibosheth for no other reason but for the sake of Jonathan. He didn't deserve it. Nor do we deserve the kindness and mercy of God, but for the sake of Christ our Lord.

"Notice carefully that David's mercy to Mephibosheth was not a token expression. He did not merely write an encouraging letter or make a one-time gift of alms. He gave his heart to Mephibosheth. He shared the palace with him; he gave up his own resources for him; he gave his life to him. He brought him into the palace, set him up in business, and made him one of his own."<sup>2</sup> David's actions are the very picture of God's grace to sinners. Just as David showed kindness to Mephibosheth for the sake of Jonathan, God is generous to believers for Christ's sake.

"So Mephibosheth ate at David's table as one of the king's sons." Today, I am a child of the King, I was once in Lo-Debar, wretched, poor, forgotten, but God sent for me. He made me one of His. He made me His own. He showed mercy to me when I didn't deserve mercy. Psalms 18:2, "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; my shield and the horn of my salvation."

Oh what a scene it will be one day in glory, Revelation 7:9-10, "After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

We rejoice today because God sent for us to eat at His table.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gty.org/library/blog/B160729>

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