Grace In A Barren Place

(2 Samuel 9)

Introduction: 1. Often it is the case that some rather significant theological concepts can be clarified through some rather ordinary events.

- 2. "Grace" is the topic of this morning's lesson and the backdrop comes from an Old Testament story in 2 Samuel 9.
- 3. There are three very special aspects of God's grace that I want to bring to your attention today.

I. The Background Of This Passage

- A. David is King over Israel and is at the height of his glory.
- B. He recalls a covenant he made with his friend, Jonathan (1 Samuel 20:14-17).
- C. David seeks out a descendant of Jonathan to bless and finds Mephibosheth.
- D. In an effort to extend grace, David asked "Is there not yet anyone of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God?" (2 Sam. 9:3).
 - 1. Note that David said "anyone", not just the worthy or deserving.

II. Our Need Of Grace

- A. He was separated from David and the palace (Isaiah 59:2).
- B. He was afraid of David (2 Samuel 9:7).
- C. He could have been hostile to David.
- D. He was in a miserable place.
 - 1. Lo-debar means, "no pasture, place of desolation, barrenness."

III. The Meaning Of Grace

- A. David was seeking someone upon which he could show kindness (Titus 3:4-5).
- B. David lavished abundance upon someone who had done nothing to deserve it (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- C. This grace was given on the basis of the merits of someone else (Ephesians 1:7-8).
- D. David was helping a man who could not help himself (Romans 5:6).

IV. The Effects Of Grace

- A. Though Mephibosheth was still lame in both feet, each time he put his feet under David's table, his true condition was covered up.
- B. (Romans 4:7-8).
- C. Recipients of grace show their gratitude through faithfulness (2 Samuel 19:24-30).

Conclusion:

- 1. Friends, God has been good to us. Much better than we could ever deserve.
- 2. He has lavished the riches of his grace upon us and has offered us his palace and his table.
- 3. In light of that, what should we do?
 - a. While we can never repay him, we can show our gratitude through faithfulness to him.