

Up From Lo-Debar

(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.

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.