

# GRACE IN A BARREN PLACE

## (II SAMUEL 9)

- Introduction:
1. One of the most misunderstood and oft mentioned concepts in all the Bible is "*grace*".
  2. It has been virtually ignored by some and overemphasized by others.
  3. I don't know of many pictures that better illustrate God's grace than from a situation in the life of David.
  4. From this text, we may describe grace as being snatched from a barren place - from a dry and desolate life of sin only to be seated at the table of the king. It is undeserved and unrepayable.
  5. Allow me to set out to justify such a definition of grace.

### I. David And Mephibosheth

- A. It was common in Eastern dynasties for a new king to kill every member of the predecessor's family.
  1. When Jonathan heard that David would succeed his father, he asked him to spare his descendants.
  2. David promised that he would protect Jonathan's family (I Sam. 20:13-16; 24:21-22)
- B. 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?" (II Sam. 9:3).
  1. Note that David said "anyone", not just the worthy or deserving.
- C. The answer to David's question is, "There is still a son of Jonathan who is crippled in both feet." (II Samuel 9:3).
  1. There may be a hint of caution due to his handicap.
- D. David sends for Mephibosheth (II Sam. 9:5).
  1. For Mephibosheth, this must have been terrifying (II Samuel 9:6-7).
- E. David lavished gifts upon Mephibosheth.
  1. All that had formerly belonged to Saul was given to Mephibosheth.
  2. Mephibosheth was given a place at the king's table.

### II. Lessons In Grace From David And Mephibosheth

- A. Mephibosheth once knew what it was like to enjoy fellowship with the king, and so did mankind with the King of kings.
  1. (Isaiah 59:1-2).
- B. Mephibosheth suffered a fall that crippled him just as we have all been crippled by our fall in sin (Romans 6:23; 3:23).
- C. Mephibosheth had nothing, deserved nothing, and in fact, didn't even try to win the king's favor (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:6-8).
- D. Mephibosheth was "adopted" into the king's family (Ephesians 1:5; I John 3:1).
- E. Mephibosheth's crippled feet were constant reminders of grace (Psalms 103:10-14).

- Conclusion:
1. Will you accept God's wonderful grace through your obedient faith in Jesus.