

The Story of Mephibosheth

July 30, 2023

2 Samuel 4:4b, NIV – He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel. His nurse picked him up and fled, but as she hurried to leave, he fell and became disabled. His name was Mephibosheth.

2 Samuel 8:14b-15, NIV – The Lord gave David victory wherever he went. David reigned over all Israel, doing what was just and right for all his people.

Main Passage: 2 Samuel 9:1-11, NIV

The Power and Purpose of Kindness

1. Kindness is a _____

1 Samuel 20:14-15a, NIV – But show me unfailing kindness like the Lord's kindness as long as I live, so that I may not be killed, and do not ever cut off your kindness from my family...

2 Samuel 9:3a, NIV – The king asked, "Is there no one still alive from the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?"

What is kindness?

Zechariah 7:8-9, NLT – Then this message came to Zechariah from the Lord: "This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: Judge fairly, and show mercy and kindness to one another."

Galatians 5:22-23a, NLT – But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

2 Corinthians 6:4-6, NLT – In everything we do, we show that we are true ministers of God. We patiently endure troubles and hardships and calamities of every kind. We have been beaten, been put in prison, faced angry mobs, worked to exhaustion, endured sleepless nights, and gone without food. We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit within us, and by our sincere love.

2. Kindness comes from _____

The counterfeit of kindness is _____

Important Life Principle:

Philippians 2:3-4, NIV – Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Matthew 6:21, NIV – [Jesus said,] “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

3. True Kindness is _____

David shows generosity to Mephibosheth in three ways:

2 Samuel 9:11b, NIV – So Mephibosheth ate at David’s table like one of the king’s sons.

Job 6:14, NIV – Anyone who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty.

Psalms 112:9, NLT – They share freely and give generously to those in need. Their good deeds will be remembered forever. They will have influence and honor.

Proverbs 21:21, ESV – Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness, and honor.

4. Kindness is a _____

The Purposes of God’s Kindness Toward Us

• **God’s Kindness _____**

Romans 2:4, NLT – Don’t you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can’t you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

1 Timothy 2:4, CEV – God wants everyone to be saved...

• **Through God’s Kindness, _____**

1 Peter 2:1-3, NLT – So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord’s kindness.

• **God’s Kindness _____**

Ephesians 2:6-8a, LB – [God] lifted us up from the grave into glory along with Christ, where we sit with him in the heavenly realms—all because of what Christ Jesus did. And now God can always point to us as examples of how very, very rich his kindness is, as shown in all he has done for us through Jesus Christ. Because of his kindness, you have been saved through trusting Christ.

Luke 22:29-30a, NLT – [Jesus said,] “And just as my Father has granted me a Kingdom, I now grant you the right to eat and drink at my table in my Kingdom.”