

Reflection Questions: 2 Samuel 9:1-13

For the message, "At the Table of the King" given by Jimmy Rourk
(Valor | Campus Crusade for Christ)
at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on March 3, 2019

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to ask God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read: 2 Samuel 9:1-13

1 And David said, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" **2** Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David. And the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "I am your servant." **3** And the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?" Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet." **4** The king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar."

5 Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar. **6** And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, "Mephibosheth!" And he answered, "Behold, I am your servant."

7 And David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always." **8** And he paid homage and said, "What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?"

9 Then the king called Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson. **10** And you and your sons and your servants shall till the land for him and shall bring in the produce, that your master's grandson may have bread to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's grandson shall always eat at my table." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. **11** Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king commands his servant, so will your servant do."

So Mephibosheth ate at David's table, like one of the king's sons. **12** And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Mica. And all who lived in Ziba's house became Mephibosheth's servants. **13** So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate always at the king's table. Now he was lame in both his feet.

A summary of the message: We all have something in our lives that causes us to hide in our hopelessness, and we need a king to enter into our lives extending his kindness. This story of King David showing kindness and grace to Mephibosheth points to One greater than David, our Lord Jesus, who brings us into his presence eternally, makes us part of his family, and gives us an eternal place at his table in the feast of the Kingdom of God.

Key Points:

- Because Jesus is our hope-filled King...
 - ...we can embrace his unconditional love
 - ...we can trust that he desires us to be in his presence
 - ...we can rest assured in his kindness
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Let's get started...

- Was this story about King David showing kindness to Mephibosheth new to you, or have you heard it before?
- What grabs your attention in this story? What questions or thoughts arise as you reflect on what its saying?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- The very nature of this story invites us to put ourselves in the place of Mephibosheth. Being that he was the son of Jonathan (David's best friend), but also the grandson of Saul (the king who sought to kill Jesus), what are some of the thoughts and emotions you might have experienced from being called into David's presence to being treated like one of David's own sons, to having a place at David's table?

- Jesus taught his disciples that all of Scripture speaks about himself (cf. Luke 24). How does this text about King David point us to our need for a greater King that would come, that is Jesus Christ?
- How does this text help us to understand our personal stories in the light of God's story of redemption? In other words, how does this text illustrate for us the grace Jesus extends to spiritually crippled and needy people like us?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- How would this story about David's kindness lavished upon Mephibosheth (together with the kindness Jesus has lavished upon us) help us to understand the kind of church we want MHC to be? In other words, if this story began to work itself into the DNA of MHC, what kind of community of faith would that form?
- What would we need to change in order to become the kind of community that shows "the kindness of God" (vs. 3) to others? What would we need to repent of? What might that look like?
- What is the cost if we are not transformed by this text? In other words, what is lost if we ignore the message?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How does this text clarify the kind of lifestyle we are called to live in this world, both in terms of intentionality and motive?
- What kind of new life / future in Christ is this text calling our city to experience?

PRAYER: What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer?

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