

Grace in a Barren Place

II Samuel 9

I. Grace: Understanding It

Definition: "*cheched*"; translated elsewhere as _____

It is _____ in spite of the other person; a demonstration of _____ that is _____, _____, or unable to be _____.

II. Grace: An Example of It (vs. 1-6)

A. A _____ Remembered (v. 1)

1. To _____ (I Sam. 20:14-17)

2. To _____ (I Sam. 24:20-22)

- David's promise was contrary to Eastern custom.

B. A _____ Asked (vs. 2, 3a)

David, trying to fulfill his promise, seeks anyone from the family of Saul to whom he may show kindness.

C. An _____ Given (v. 3b)

Ziba, a former servant of King Saul, said there was a son of Jonathan who was still alive. His answer carried a tone of caution. "You may want to think twice before you do something. He is not kingly; he doesn't fit the surroundings; he is a cripple." Ziba's answer did not affect David's interest.

D. A _____ Sought (vs. 4-6)

1. The location given (v. 4)

"*lo-debar*" no pasture, barren, a place of desolation

2. A custom ignored

3. The cause explained (I Sam. 4:4)

4. Mephibosheth was taken (vs. 5-6)

III. Grace: The Result of It - A Cripple who Became a Prince

- A. David sought Mephibosheth in a place of _____ desolation.
- B. David restored Mephibosheth to a position of _____ honor.
- C. David set Mephibosheth at a table of _____ blessing.

IV. Grace: The Application of It (By analogy)

- A. Before he was crippled Mephibosheth enjoyed his father's fellowship and blessings.
 - ✠ Before man fell he enjoyed God's fellowship blessings.
- B. When disaster came, Mephibosheth suffered a fall which left him crippled the rest of his life.
 - ✠ When temptation came, man suffered a fall which left its mark on mankind ever since.
(Rom. 5:12)
- C. David the King, because of his attachment to Jonathan, sought out anyone to whom he could show forth his grace.
 - ✠ God the father, because of His attachment to Jesus Christ, seeks out anyone to whom he can show forth His grace.
(II Peter 3:9)
- D. Mephibosheth deserved nothing and did nothing to receive the king's favour. In fact, he was living in barrenness and a "no pasture" land, and was physically unlovely.
 - ✠ The sinner without Christ deserves nothing and does nothing to receive God's grace.

Let us never forget how barren, wasted, and unlovely our lives were before Christ found us.
(Eph. 2:1-9)

- E. King David restored Mephibosheth to his original place and position of blessing and fellowship.
 - † God restores us in Christ to the place and position of blessing and fellowship, but like Mephibosheth, we remain crippled. (Eph. 2:5-6)
- F. David adopted Mephibosheth into his family as one of his own sons. He became part of the King's family.
 - † God adopts us into His family as one of His own and we become children of the King.
(John 1:12, Gal. 4:5)
- G. Mephibosheth's limp was a constant reminder of King David's grace.
 - † Our stumbling, our failures, our lack of perfection - these are constant reminders of God's grace.
- H. The same blessings that were Absalom's, Solomon's, and the rest of David's family were now Mephibosheth's.
 - † The same blessings that were Abraham's, Moses', the Apostle Paul's, Peter's, and the rest of God's family are ours to claim.