

Sunday Night Message

May 10, 2020

2 Samuel 9 – David Remembers His Friends

Topics – David; Jonathan; Mephibosheth; Lodebar

Series – 2 Samuel

Text – 2 Samuel 9

Introduction

I. David's Remembers His Friend Jonathan (vs. 1 – 3a)

David remembers his friendship and covenant with Saul's son, Jonathan. David and Jonathan had a very special relationship. When Jonathan died, David mourned greatly:

"How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places. I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!" (2 Samuel 1:25-27)

David made a covenant with Jonathan. Jonathan was next in line to the throne, but he knew that David was going to be the next king of Israel, and he willingly submitted to the will of God.

"Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle." (1 Samuel 18:3-4)

When David first suspected that Saul was out to kill him, he sent Jonathan on a mission to find out for sure. Before Jonathan left on this mission, they reaffirmed the covenant:

"The LORD do so and much more to Jonathan: but if it please my father to do thee evil, then I will shew it thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace: and the LORD be with thee, as he hath been with my father. And thou shalt not only while yet I live shew me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not: But also thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth. So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, Let the LORD even require it at the hand of David's enemies." (1 Samuel 20:13-16)

When it was revealed to both Jonathan and David that Saul was, in fact, trying to kill David, they reassured each other of the covenant between them.

"And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded. And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city." (1 Samuel 20:41-42)

"And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God. And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth. And they two made a covenant before the LORD: and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house." (1 Samuel 23:16-18)

David also made a promise to Saul that he would not kill any of his seed:

"And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand. Swear now therefore unto me by the LORD, that thou wilt not cut off my seed after me, and that thou wilt not destroy my name out of my father's house. And David sware unto Saul. And Saul went home; but David and his men gat them up unto the hold." (1 Samuel 24:20-22)

David never forgot his friend, or the promises that he made.

How quick are we to forget our promises? How quick do we drop our friends?

Notice when David is speaking to Ziba, the servant of Saul, he doesn't add "for Jonathan's sake." The offer was apparently for anybody in Saul's family. It seems strange that David would make this offer to everyone. It makes perfect sense that he would offer it for a son of Jonathan because Jonathan was David's friend, but why would the offer apply to anyone who descended from Saul? Saul absolutely hated David, and did everything in his power to kill him.

David is a picture of Christ here who is kind to the unkind; merciful to those deserving of no mercy:

"But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil." (Luke 6:35)

We should learn to be kind to each other as well:

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32)

David's grandson Rehoboam did not learn kindness and as a result, he lost most of his kingdom in a civil war:

*"And king Rehoboam took counsel with the old men that had stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, saying, What counsel give ye me to return answer to this people? And they spake unto him, saying, **If thou be kind to this people**, and please them, and speak good words to them, they will be thy servants for ever. But he forsook the counsel which the old men gave him, and took counsel with the young men that were brought up with him, that stood before him." (2 Chronicles 10:6-8)*

II. David Retrieves Mephibosheth from Lodebar (vs. 3b – 5)

The first mention of Mephibosheth in the Bible is in 2 Samuel 4:4:

"And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth." (2 Samuel 4:4)

When Israel fled from the Philistines after the Battle of Mt. Gilboa, they crossed the Jordan and went into Gilead. While escaping, the nurse who held five-year-old Mephibosheth dropped him, and he apparently received permanent injury to both of his legs.

The family of Saul once owned land in Gibeah, but apparently all of their former property holdings on the west side of the Jordan River were taken away.

The name Machir is associated with Gilead. The first Machir mentioned in the Bible was a son of Manasseh, and he had a son named Gilead. The region of Gilead, located east of the Jordan River is named after him. Lodebar is in Gilead. Gilead was the area that Saul's forces were driven to after the great battle with the Philistines. The name, "Lodebar" means "pastureless," or "without pastures." Theologians have conjectured that it was a very poor area, and that Mephibosheth was actually very destitute himself at this point.

Machir supported Mephibosheth in Lodebar, and later helped David when he was preparing for battle with Absalom in 2 Samuel 17:27 – 29.

III. David Restores All and More to Mephibosheth (vs. 6 – 13)

A. Notice the Kindness of David

David restores all of Saul's former land holdings to Mephibosheth, but he also gives him a seat at his table along with David's own sons. David is gracious and merciful just like His Lord.

"But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth." (Psalm 86:15)

"The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy." (Psalm 103:8)

B. Notice the Contrition of Mephibosheth

Mephibosheth has a contrite attitude. He bows before David, and he refers to himself as a "dead dog." "Dog" was a term used for Gentiles. We are all "dead dogs" worthy of judgement.

There is a wonderful picture of soulwinning here. David sent out servants to an obscure and unremarkable place to bring back an unworthy sinner and grant him a place at the King's table. He treats Mephibosheth far better than he deserves.

He gives all of land that had once belonged to Saul, and had given it to Mephibosheth. Ziba and his sons would take care of the land and live on it, but Mephibosheth would have a home within the king's palace. David would completely support Mephibosheth, but the land would support all of Mephibosheth's family and servants.



BATTLES DURING DAVID'S REIGN

- City
- City with an uncertain location
- ← Philistines attack David in the Valley of Rephaim, near Baal-perazim (2 Sam. 5:17ff)
- ← David repels Philistine attacks (2 Sam. 5:25)
- ← David attacks Hadadezer, king of Zobah (2 Sam. 8:3ff)
- ← Edomites threaten David at Valley of Salt (2 Sam. 8:13)
- ← David decisively defeats the Edomites (2 Sam. 8:14)
- ← Ammonites, aided by the Aramean mercenary forces of Zobah, Beth-rehob, Maacah and Tob, challenge David near Rabbah (Amman) (2 Sam. 10:1ff)
- ← David's forces defeat the Ammonite-Aramean confederation (2 Sam. 10:7ff)
- ← Hadadezer, king of Zobah, leads an Aramean army against David at Helam (2 Sam. 10:15ff)
- ← David defeats Hadadezer's Aramean confederation at Helam (2 Sam. 10:17ff)
- ← David is expelled from Jerusalem by his son Absalom (2 Sam. 17:21ff)
- ← David dispatches a census team throughout his realm (2 Sam. 24:1ff)
- ★ Battle scene

