Two Unlikely Characters

Two of the key characters in this story could not be more dissimilar. We have David, possessor of God's unconditional love-base fidelity, the up and coming political superstar. Living in a cedar palace. Then there is Mephibosheth, the crippled fatherless, outcast; member of a deposed royal family that has watched his family members disappear and live in obscurity. It is hard to know whom to identify with most, in this story. We could be the outcast cripple, in fear for his life, and other times, we feel like we are on top of the world, blessed beyond our imagination. Who do you feel most like, in this story? Can you remember a time when it seems your life was like the other character? How does the experience of being a Mephibosheth inform the experience of being a David, or vice versa?

Honored seat at the King's Table

Not only is the trembling Mephibosheth given kindness, but this love-based covenant way of doing things provides a perpetual place of sonship to him. David has Mephibosheth eat with him and his sons every day. Mephibosheth is given a new family, but not just any family, he is part of the King's family now. Mephibosheth is royalty. The narrator concludes this story by reminding the reader that Mephibosheth is still crippled. If this was a New Testament story about the acts of Jesus, we could expect a healing; a lame man walking and leaping, but that is not the case. Sometimes broken people remain broken, and all that can be done, is change their status. Sometimes we are reminded of the brokenness of this world when we look at those seated around the table. So, what does it mean to invite broken people to the King's table? What does it mean to permit their brokenness to remain as we sit together at the table? How does a change in status provide hope to broken people? How did it change you?

Still Collecting School Supplies: See bulleting board for more info

Church Staff

Rob Kazee, Pastor
rpkazee@gmail.com ~ 202-997-1222

Dave Myers, Pastor to Families
dmmyers79@gmail.com ~ 707-338-7290

Jeff Wolfe, Pastor of Spiritual Formation
jeffwolfe125@gmail.com ~ 717-261-6173

Becky Wolfe, Office Administrator and
Pastor of Congregational Care & Fellowship
rwolfenaz@gmail.com ~ 717-514-6275

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Sunday School
11 AM - 12:30 PM Worship Service
617 16th St. New Cumberland, PA 17070
717-774-6444

email: **office@tablelifechurch.org** *web:* **www.tablelifechurch.org**

www.facebook.com/tablelifechurch

TABLELIFE CHURCH

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

TABLELIFE CHURCH

Order of Worship
12 August 2018
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Music
Welcome
Call to Worship
Worship Reading

We Listen to the Scriptures

Pastoral Prayer
Offering
Scripture Readings: 2 Samuel 9.1-13
Sermon Series: The Epic Tale of Samuel, Saul, and David
Sermon Ten: *"Hesed"*

We Come to the Table

Passing the Peace of Christ
Song of preparation
Prayer of Consecration
The Lord's Prayer
We Eat and Drink Together
Prayer of Thanksgiving

We Go to Live in the Reign of God

Community Life
Gossiping the Good Stuff
Doxology
Blessing and Sending

If you are a guest with us today, Please take time to fill out a Connection Card.

Please visit us on our website,
www.tablelifefchurch.org for details of events.
Also you will find, Worship folders, online giving and you can also send prayer request to the prayer chain.

COMING SOON

Aug 12 Market Street Breakfast Ministry	7:24 AM
Aug 19 Common Meal	12:30PM
Aug 21 Team and Board Meetings	6:30PM
Aug 22 **NO** Wednesday Evening Activities	*****
Aug 25 Krystal Wolfe's Bridal Shower	2:00PM
Aug 29 **NO** Wednesday Evening Activities	*****
Sept 2 NO Sunday School	*****

Official Church Calendar ~ www.tablelifechurch.org/calendar

Sermon Reflection Guide

2 Samuel 9:1-13

David asked, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul to whom I may show kindness for Jonathan's sake?" Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and he was summoned to David. The king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "At your service!" The king said, "Is there anyone remaining of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God?" Ziba said to the king, "There remains a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet." The king said to him, "Where is he?" Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar." Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar. Mephibosheth son of Jonathan son of Saul came to David, and fell on his face and did obeisance. David said, "Mephibosheth!" He answered, "I am your servant." David said to him, "Do not be afraid, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan; I will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul, and you yourself shall eat at my table always." He did obeisance and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon a dead dog such as I?"

Then the king summoned Saul's servant Ziba, and said to him, "All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson. You and your sons and your servants shall till the land for him, and shall bring in the produce, so that your master's grandson may have food to eat; but your master's grandson Mephibosheth shall always eat at my table." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king commands his servant, so your servant will do." Mephibosheth ate at David's table, like one of the king's sons. Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Mica. And all who lived in Ziba's house became Mephibosheth's servants. Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he always ate at the king's table. Now he was lame in both his feet.

Fulfillment of God's promise

In 2 Samuel 7:10, God promises Israel rest from all their enemies, and by 2 Samuel 8:14 we learn that David has established his borders and either defeated or received tribute from surrounding nations, and the narrator tells us that, "The Lord gave David victory wherever he went." How often do we fail to see the swiftness of God's action? When is the last time you recognized God working out his promise in your own life, or the life of others?

Hesed

This story is probably David at his best. There will be tales of adultery, betrayal, family conflict and scandal. But in this story, David is getting it right. The key word in this passage is hesed, and it is often translated loving-kindness, or kindness, as in this passage, but for the people of God it has a much bigger definition. It joins together the idea of fidelity, loyalty, and covenant, with the underpinning of love. It could most easily be translated as love-based fidelity or love-based covenant. Laird Harris says, "The oath (covenant, loyalty) is kept because it is the loving God who speaks the oath." Walter Brueggeman writes, "Israel was to respond to the self-giving love of Yahweh. As in any serious relationship of love, the appropriate response to love is to resonate with the will, purpose, desire, hope, and intention of the one who loves." God has promised. God has delivered. David has promised. Now David delivers. How should God's love-based fidelity to us, reframe the way we do good works? How does the idea that we have been drawn into a God-bound relationship redefine compassion for us?