

Second Samuel 9:1-13 is a record of David's showing kindness to Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan: **A** David felt obliged to show kindness, for the sake of Jonathan, to any remaining descendant of the house of Saul and asked a servant of the house of Saul, saying, "Is there yet anyone at all of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?" (2 Sam. 9:3) **B** The servant told David that there was still a son of Jonathan, Mephibosheth, who was crippled in his feet. **C** David told Mephibosheth that he would show kindness to him for the sake of Jonathan his father and promised Mephibosheth that he would restore to him all the land of his grandfather and that he would eat at the king's table continually. **D** King David preserved his life, restored to him all his inheritance, and invited him to feast with him at the same table. 2 Sam. 9:7 And David said to him, Do not be afraid, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of Jonathan your father; and I will restore to you all the land of your father Saul, and you will eat food at my table continually. **I** Mephibosheth had no ground to receive grace, yet he received it; the same is true with regard to us and God: **A** **1** He received kindness not because of himself but because of another person. **2** This is true for a sinner before God. Rom. 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His kindness and forbearance and long-suffering, not knowing that God's kindness is leading you to repentance? **B** Lo-debar, the place where Mephibosheth lived, is a Hebrew word that means "a place without grass, without pasture"; the world today is a "Lo-debar": **2** A sinner far away from God is also living in a place without grass. **C** Mephibosheth did not seek after David, but David sent men to fetch Mephibosheth. **D** When David said, "Mephibosheth," there was a compassionate feeling in his heart, and there was a pleasant tone in his voice: **1** Underneath this word was a heart that expressed God's heart. 1 Sam. 20:14 And while I am still alive, do show me the lovingkindness of Jehovah, that I may not die; 15 And never cut off your lovingkindness from my house, **III** Spiritually speaking, we all are like Mephibosheth, the grandson of King Saul, who was crippled in his feet: **A** Although Mephibosheth dined with the king often, his two feet still

remained lame. **B** After Mephibosheth received grace from David, he looked only at the riches on David's table; he did not look at his crippled feet underneath the table. **C** Like Mephibosheth, we can dine at the King's table even though we are still crippled: 2 Sam. 9:13 And Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem because he ate at the king's table continually. And he was crippled in both his feet. **1** Our two feet are lame, but they are under the table. **2a** Whenever we look at ourselves, we discover that we are lame, and we become discouraged. **b** We should look only at the riches on the Lord's table and enjoy them. **3** What God has spread out for us is wonderful, rich, and sweet; we simply need to eat. **D** We need to turn away from self-introspection and look away unto the Lord. Heb. 12:2 Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God. **E** When we look only at the riches and the grace that God has spread before us, we will be peaceful, and our hearts will be satisfied. **IV** David's kindness to Mephibosheth signifies the kindness of God: **A** Kindness is a benevolent goodness that issues out of the mercy and love of God. **B** It is the kindness and the love of our Savior God that saved us and made us different from others: **1** The grace of God brings salvation to man; we have been saved by the grace of the Lord. **2** Titus 3.5 says that according to His mercy God saved us: **b** Our pitiful condition created wide gap between us and God's grace. **c** It was God's mercy that bridged this gap and brought us to His salvation of grace. **3a** Love is the source of grace; in 1 John we touch the love of God the Father as the source of grace. **b** In the heart of the Father there is love; when this love is expressed through the Son, it becomes grace. **c** Kindness is God's attitude in giving us grace. **d** When we have mercy, love, and kindness, we automatically have grace. **e** Our God and Father has shown us love, mercy, and kindness; it is by this that He saves us. Titus 3:4 But when the kindness and the love to man of our Savior God appeared, 5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, **C** In the age to come—the ages of the millennium

and eternity future—God will display “the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:7): **1** It is in God’s kindness that the grace of God is given to us. **D** One item of the fruit of the Spirit is kindness: Col. 3:12 Put on therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, inward parts of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, long-suffering; 2 Cor. 6:4 But in everything we commend ourselves as ministers of God, **6** In pureness,...in unfeigned love, **3** Love is kind, and we need to be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave us. Eph. 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you.

CP1 God visits man and give grace to man not because of man’s work but because of God’s mercy and kindness
II Mephibosheth had no ground to receive grace, yet he received it; the same is true with regard to us and God: 2 Sam. 9:3 And the king said, Is there yet anyone at all of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?... **A1** He received kindness not because of himself but because of another person. **2** This is true for a sinner before God. **B** Lo-debar, the place where Mephibosheth lived, is a Hebrew word that means "a place without grass, without pasture"; the world today is a "Lo-debar". **C** Mephibosheth did not seek after David, but David sent men to fetch Mephibosheth.

D When David said, "Mephibosheth," there was a compassionate feeling in his heart, and there was a pleasant tone in his voice: **1** Underneath this word was a heart that expressed God's heart. 2 Sam. 9:6 And David said, Mephibosheth.... **7** And David said to [Mephibosheth], Do not be afraid, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of Jonathan your father; and I will restore to you all the land of your father Saul, and you will eat food at my table continually. **8** ...“What is your servant that you should look upon a dead dog like me?” 10 ...will eat food continually at my table”.

Many people think, “I must do something good before I can please God.” But the Bible tells us that God loves us without a reason. We did not have any position before God, and we should not have obtained His grace. But we have our Jonathan, Jesus Christ. God has graced us because of Him. We are saved because we have the Lord Jesus before God. With the Lord, we can come

before God.

On Mephibosheth’s side, he dared not seek the king because his grandfather was the king’s enemy. In addition, he was not able to seek the king because he was lame. We may think, “Perhaps someday I will become better, seek after God, and earnestly plead to Him to forgive my sins. Perhaps then I will be saved.” But...the Bible says God wants you, calls you, and sends men to tell you that He wants you. Romans 10:6 and 7...tell us that no man can go to heaven to ask the Lord to die for him and that no man can go to Hades to ask the Lord to resurrect from death. The following verses say, “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart...; for with the heart there is believing unto righteousness, and with the mouth there is confession unto salvation” (vv. 8, 10)... If there is a man here who is not saved, it will not be because God does not save him but because he rejects God’s grace.

Application to young people, college students, new ones
Testimony Before I came to church meetings and met the Lord Jesus and was saved, I thought that I had to "get better" before I could come to Him. But to my surprise, when I came to the church meeting as I was, the Lord Jesus visited me. The Lord visited me the moment I entered the three Japanese 6-mat rooms together, where brothers and sisters were sitting and meeting. When I saw them praising loudly, their faces filled with joy and shining, a light entered my being. I was saved in that moment. Before I went to the meeting, I had all sorts of religious questions in mind, but at that moment all my questions were blown away, and for the first time, perhaps, I opened up, even though I was very guarded person. I don’t remember what was spoken at the meeting afterward, but I clearly remember "the joyful and radiant faces of the brothers and sisters," that "my heart was opened to the Lord just a little at the moment I saw them," and that "at the same time a light entered me. The Lord is rich in mercy, and even though I was closed to Him, He still loved me and visited me. Eph. 2:1 And you, though dead in your offenses and sins, **2** In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience; **3** Among whom we also all conducted ourselves once in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of

the thoughts, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest; [4](#) But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, [5](#) Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) [7](#) That He might display in the ages to come the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. [8](#) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; [9](#) Not of works that no one should boast.

Until then, I had spent a long time living a life of going down, and I was very worried about it, but there was nothing I could do about it. However, I can clearly testify that the life of reversing to Going up began when the Lord came into me. Of course, after I was saved, I often became weak and went down and experienced "ups and downs", but from the bird's eye view, I continue to go up. Christ within is the driving force of my life of Going up.

[Phil. 4:13](#) I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me. The Lord's mercy reached me when I was far away from God. I thank and praise the Lord! **Prayer** Oh, Lord Jesus, thank You for Your mercy and compassion. I was a sinner, having no standing before God and nothing to merit Your grace. But You loved me "without a reason," visited me, and gave me grace. I did not pursue you, but you had mercy on me, visited me, and saved me. Thank you Lord!

CP2: [We need to be kind to one another, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave us](#)

IV [David's kindness to Mephibosheth signifies the kindness of God:](#)

C In the ages to come—the ages of the millennium and eternity future—God will display "the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:7): **1** It is in God's kindness that the grace of God is given to us. **D** One item of the fruit of the Spirit is kindness: **1** Having put on the new man, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, we need to put on inward parts of compassion and kindness. [Col. 3:12](#) Put on therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, inward parts of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, long-suffering.

2 The apostle Paul was a minister of God in kindness, and he charged us to continue in the kindness of God [2 Cor. 6:4](#) But in everything we commend ourselves as ministers of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, [6](#) in pureness, in

knowledge, in long-suffering, in kindness, in a holy spirit, in unfeigned love,... [Rom. 11:22](#) Behold then the kindness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but on you, the kindness of God, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.

3 Love is kind, and we need to be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave us. [1 Cor. 13:4](#) Love suffers long. Love is kind; it is not jealous. Love does not brag and is not puffed up. [Eph. 4:32](#) And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you.

We were once those Who opposed God and walked according to the age of this world, according to Satan as the ruler of the authority of the air. Moreover, we also once conducted ourselves in the lusts of the flesh and were children of wrath before God. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, was full of kindness toward us. Although God is a strict and majestic God, He did not abandon us but rather had mercy on us. Because He has mercy and love, He is kind toward us, that is, lenient, good, and benevolent to us. God's kindness toward us is according to His love and because of His mercy. In this kindness He gives us the riches of His grace.

Only the enjoyment of Christ as our life supply and as our joy can make our hearts tender. If we are tenderhearted, we shall forgive others. In our daily walk, we need both to forgive others and to ask others to forgive us. This is necessary because we are easily offended and we easily offend others. If we have offended someone, we need to ask for forgiveness. But if we have been offended, we need to extend forgiveness to others, even as God in Christ has forgiven us.

In his exhortation in this section, the apostle presents God as the pattern of our daily life. By the life of God, in His Spirit, we can forgive as God forgives.

[Application to business person/ graduate students](#)

Testimony In a company board meeting, two executives who had been in the company for a long time were always arguing with each other. When one person proposed something, the other strongly opposed it. I wondered, and asked another executive with a long history in the

company why, and he said, "There was a conflict between these two when I joined the company about 30 years ago, and they have had unforgivable feelings toward each other ever since." I was not only dismayed by these two, but also by the other board members who accepted the situation as an unavoidable state. And I realized again that while we Japanese have the virtues of diligent work and being good at detailed work, we tend to remember various small things because of the fineness and have a tendency of not forgiving others. I also thanked the Lord, realizing that my heart could be enlarged a bit because of the church life.

In the gospel and shepherding in the church life, I often experienced a feeling of "this person is not very good" and not wanting to continue with the gospel and shepherding. At such times, however, I remember that "I received the Lord's mercy and was saved, even though I did not ask for it," and I pray as follows, "Oh Lord Jesus, I am getting sick of shepherding this new one. But I remember God's mercy and kindness regarding my salvation. I want to touch Your boundless love and shepherd. And may I shepherd the new ones not according to myself, but according to God!" When I prayed in this way, I was touched and moved by God's love and was able to continue shepherding according to God rather than according to my own feelings.

Hymn E28 The love of God is greater far

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell.
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell.
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled
And pardoned from his sin.
O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
The saints' and angels' song.

Prayer Oh Lord Jesus, God loved and forgave me when I opposed Him, was carried away by the age of this world, and behaved in the lusts of the flesh. The Lord, in His kindness, has given us the abundance of His grace. Therefore, as God's chosen one, holy and beloved, I need to put on

compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, long-suffering. Let me continue to remain in God's kindness and train myself to forgive others as God has forgiven me. Amen!