

The History Channel: The Messages of Israel's Historians
Frontline:
Kingdom Life According to David
2 Samuel 9

Intro: I am staying on the YOTM published preaching schedule today by focusing on Israel's second and greatest king. I will bring the message about King Saul on May 18.

King David, the shepherd boy and poet who became a king, is the darling of the Hebrew nation. We build our first impressions of him from the famous story of David and Goliath. Here he is portrayed as a young man for whom the king's armor is too big. He is winsome and likable, a person of unusual courage and faith who defends the people of God regardless of personal risk. He is the amazing marksman who fells the giant with a single stone, routs the enemy army and sets the people of God to singing their victory songs.

The Prophet Samuel announced that the Kingdom of Israel would be removed from King Saul, and said, "The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him as leader of his people" (1 Samuel 13:14). David is described repeatedly as a man "after God's own heart." The Apostle Paul summarized the history of salvation for the worshipers in the synagogue in Antioch. Part of that summary included Paul's assessment—and history's assessment—of King David: "After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'" (Acts 13:22).

To mimic the best of King David,

I. The King's Table Requires an Invitation. David is looking for Ways to Show God's Kindness—Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake? (2 Samuel 9:1,3).

A. This is ACTIVE kindness, not passive. David does research on the matter. He identifies obscure people who might be able to help with the project. He chases them down and initiates a conversation with them.

B. This is ENDURING kindness, not momentary.

C. This is RECIPROCAL kindness. It mimics the heart of God.

II. The King's Table Commands Respect. David said, "Mephibosheth!" "Your servant," he replied (2 Samuel 9:6).

A. You know the MASTER of this table. You are not the Master. You are the invited guest. The Master is the King, the ruler of the Kingdom. You are part of that Kingdom.

B. You know that KINDNESS seats you here. It is not something you have earned or deserve. You have a sense that you are truly privileged to have this fellowship. Like Zaccheus, you are delighted that Jesus asks you to dine. You are ready to make reparations to all with whom you need reconciliation, and to make restitution for the evil you have done.

C. You know you are the SERVANT. When your name is called you have one appropriate response, "Your servant." That is all. At the table they may read a litany of your accomplishments. They may introduce you as the son of Saul, the son of Jonathan, a true prince in Israel. But you know that all the accomplishments are only a minimum requirement for those who serve the king. If any works are noted you say, "I have only done what a servant should do, nothing more."

III. The King's Table Covers all the Blemishes: And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king's table, and he was crippled in both feet (2 Samuel 9:13).

A. Mephibosheth was a cripple. His nurse dropped him upon receiving news that Saul and Jonathan had perished in battle and that the kingdom was in turmoil. He was permanently crippled because of that fall (2 Samuel 4:4).

B. We are all crippled in various ways. Many of us carry the wounds that have fallen upon our lives through no fault of our own. We suffer limitations, heartache, and trouble. We experience severe blows that hurt us deeply and set us back terribly. Sometimes we carry these wounds upon our body. We are acutely conscious of our limitations and diseases. We so want to be "normal."

C. When Mephibosheth pulled up to the king's table, nobody in the room could see his crippled feet. He sat there as a man among men, a privileged member of the royal family.

D. The same is true with you. You are invited to this table. You are aware of your glaring limitations and faults. You need not worry here. You need only one thing to sit at this table. You need an invitation. The invitation comes with all the authority necessary to secure your place beside the king.