

PLEASE OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO 2 Samuel 9

Notes in this section from Rev. Bob Tolliver:

+ **Week Two: Reality #2 ---- "God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal."** Men tend to squirm over this thought, feeling uncomfortable, suspicious, and unqualified. Women, tend to embrace the idea with hope and joy. Regardless, the truth of it can be revolutionary . . . because it confronts us at the point of many of our fears, misgivings, and misconceptions.

#1 **IT IS GOD.** The idea that God wants to have a "love affair" with us simply doesn't compute with our human comprehension. Even though we may fully understand the redemptive plan, initiated and propelled by unconditional love, the idea of God wanting to both continue and intensify a love relationship with us is simply too much for us.

#2 **HE PURSUES.** How does it feel to be chased by God? . . . to be "stalked" by someone who loves you more than you love him? . . . to have someone chasing you down because He wants to be with you more than you want to be with Him? . . . And He never quits! Twenty-four/seven, He is after you, . . . on your heels, . . . sometimes walking beside you with His arms around your shrugging shoulders, . . . sometimes walking backwards in front of you ---- in your face . . . saying, "Hey! Have I told you lately that I love you???"

#3 **A LOVING RELATIONSHIP.** Now, that's a different thought! You may have thought it was an anger/fear relationship . . . or a judge/guilty one . . . or a task master/slave one. But it's not. It's all about love . . . 100% love! Unconditional no-strings-attached love! Not a one night stand! Not a "let's make a deal" relationship. But, a genuine, long-term commitment . . . an eternal one. . . not built on performance or on meeting a certain standard or criteria. . . just nothing but simple, unconditional love.

THINK ABOUT THAT FOR A WEEK!

READ V. 1 (This is the OT version of the “Prodigal Son” DAVID ‘represents’ Father God)

“And David said...” Where was he?

Breakfast? Dinner? Staff Meeting? State of the Union address?

David is the most powerful king on the earth

He proclaimed a news conference/a news flash

NBC, CBS, ABC, PBS, CNN, MSNBC, FOX,

Definition:

“ Mercy ”	<i>The deepest possible desire to give</i>
“ Compassion ”	<i>Drive brought about by mercy (bowels)</i>
“God’s love” Hesed (Hebrew) Agape (Greek)	<i>“To promise to give, help, restore, etc. until it is too good to be true and then swear to covenant in your own blood to prove you’re not lying”</i>

In 1 Samuel 20:14-16 Jonathan and David made a covenant

1Sa 20:14 “And you shall not only show me the kindness of the LORD while I live, that I may not die; 15 but you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth. 16 So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David saying, “Let the LORD require it at the hand of David’s enemies”. (NKJV),

This promise is burning inside of David: Jonathan was dead

- It was between David and Jonathan and all of Jonathan’s offspring/ house

READ V. 2-3

“Kindness of God” Insight into where the drive was coming from

2Sa 4:4 “Jonathan, Saul’s son, had a son who was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel; and his nurse took him up, and fled: And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. So his name was Mephibosheth. (NKJV),

Mephibosheth is a prince but can’t walk or work

READ V. 4

Machir (“may-hear”)

Lo Debar “No pasture”

Irony: David is a shepherd
He knew the Shepherd

Psalm 23:2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures: He leads me beside the still waters. (NKJV),

Mephibosheth:
Is in a place with no pasture because he has no shepherd
He is living as a slave even though he is a prince
-Because he doesn't know the King

READ V. 5

David sent and fetched Mephibosheth

HE DIDN'T PICK UP THE PHONE AND SET UP AN APPOINTMENT
You could hear the troops coming miles away, THIS IS HIS SON!
Hesed demands that you send out the 4th Infantry
David is the Commander in Chief!
David is a warrior!
10,000 soldiers, flags flying, dust flying, apache helicopters

Mephibosheth, when he heard this, had to be filled with fear!
He is a young man now, crippled in his feet
He had been lied to as to who did this to him
He had been lied to as to who David was

David had stolen his land, killed his dad and grandfather
"This guy has stolen a throne that should be mine"

Mephibosheth doesn't know that David is coming to rescue him
He hasn't read the covenant
He doesn't know what is rightfully his

Wouldn't it have been great if Mephibosheth would've had a copy of the covenant in his hand so that he could've read it anytime that he wanted to?

****Consider yourself blessed;
▪ You're holding a copy of your covenant with God in your hands (the Bible)

READ V. 6

Mephibosheth falls on his face

He is afraid of David

He is thinking that this guy has sought him out to kill him.

David is looking at his son

Wondering why his son is on the floor

Why his son is afraid of him

All David wants to do is bless Mephibosheth

READ V. 7

“Fear Not”

David hadn't stolen the land; it was given to him by covenant

He wasn't coming to kill, steal, or destroy – *That's the enemy!*

He's coming to give life, that he might have it more abundantly.

Hesed is driving David – He represents God

God is saying through David; “I'm not sending an army to destroy you, I'm sending an army to rescue you out of a place of no pasture!”

READ V. 8

Look at how Mephibosheth responds: “RELIGIOUS BAWLING”

He's not a dog!

He was born a prince and is still one today!

He already had a covenant with the King

He's always been rich, but he believed lies about who David was

And because of that, he never entered in to his inheritance

READ V. 9-10

Notice, David doesn't answer Mephibosheth, doesn't pay attention

Mephibosheth is lying on the floor, so David speaks to the servants

To work the land

To free Mephibosheth to sit at David's table

To free Mephibosheth to be with the King!

David wanted Mephibosheth to be with him

He was his son!

READ V. 11-13

“When he was at the table, Do you think that anyone could see his lame feet?”

When we are in God’s presence
He sees us as we are in Christ
He sees us as sons and daughters
He seats us at His banqueting table
And His banner over us is love!

David could’ve killed Mephibosheth; He had a covenant with him
That’s why David didn’t kill Saul when he had the chance 2 times

When Mephibosheth sat at David’s table
He was able to hear from David how sorry he was
Sorry that Mephibosheth was hurt- *This never should have happened!*

“I’m so sorry that your legs became lame as you tried to run from me”
“I’m so sorry that you got driven to a place of no pasture”
“I’m so sorry I got so caught up in the celebrations in my own life:
-As the new king
-In the return of the ark to Jerusalem

What will we tell those who lost sons because we never shared Jesus?

- “I’m so sorry **Mrs. Murphy** (Carol)... Your son Jim: put a shot gun to his head”
 - *I was in a hurry; he told me that everything was OK*
 - “I’m so sorry **Mrs. Kinney** ... your son Tom – slit his wrists & took pills to kill himself”
 - *I was too BUSY to take time to tell him about Jesus.*
 - “I’m so sorry **Mrs. Halverson** ... your son Randy asphyxiated himself in your garage”
 - *I knew he was hurting, but I wanted to run from my old life*
-

King David to Mephibosheth: *“I’m so sorry that in my busyness I didn’t take time to tell you that I had a covenant WITH YOU and that you are my son!”*

PLEASE OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO ISAIAH 55

READ ISAIAH 55

Mephibosheth: Come to the table! No more ‘dog’ talk!
Mephibosheth: God wants you to surrender to Him

WORSHIP TEAM PLEASE COME UP HERE

Mephibosheth: Ate at David's table continually to remind him who he was.

Someone sent for him, picked him up, threw him into the most prosperous situation, he found out that somebody loved him, and gave to him all that was for the king.

SO How do we respond?

TO THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW JESUS:

- I would hate to think of someone going through another day and not understand why Jesus came.

- God is searching to find you;
YOU MATTER TO HIM!
There is a search party going on for you.
He wants a relationship with you that is real and personal

- There is a price that has been paid by Jesus Christ on a cross some 2000 years ago by His death, burial, and resurrection.

- Jesus came to pay for our sins so that we could be forgiven and be in right relationship with the Father. **THAT WAS HIS PLAN ALL ALONG.**

- It is so easy to miss that as we go through our days,

- Simply put, Jesus is calling out for you today, right now. But He wants so much more than just today, He wants you tomorrows and all that follows in the future.

- And all you have to do is respond to His calling for you to turn from your sinful ways and ask His forgiveness. He will take care of the rest.

- But **today** is the day of salvation. **WON'T YOU ANSWER HIM TODAY?**

- **Come forward quickly**

TO THOSE WHO ALREADY KNOW JESUS:

- **Most importantly: HE LONGS TO SPEND TIME WITH YOU!**
 - You're saved – BUT you're EMPTY Because you don't spend time with HIM – STOP LOOKING ELSEWHERE!
 - **Secondly, He wants you to join Him in His work**
 - **SERVANTS: Go work the land!**
 - **Baby-sit, chores, free them up to receive Jesus**
 - **Free them up to be with the King!**
-

There were only 20 lifeboats aboard the Titanic – about half of what was required to fully evacuate the ship. Most of them were only partially full; some were actually half-empty!

As the Titanic was sinking, many of the passengers were able to put on a life jacket, but they could not find an available lifeboat. They jumped or fell into the ocean, left floating in the frigid waters, crying into the night for help.

Again, there was room in the lifeboats for hundreds of them! That is why their fate is perhaps the most shocking human tragedy of that heart rendering night when 1,500 people died.

Though those in the water continued to cry out for someone to rescue them, the people in the lifeboats just kept rowing away. They thought the rescue was too risky. So out of 20 lifeboats, only one finally turned back, in time to save only 6 passengers.

3 days later when the funeral ships arrived from Nova Scotia, they were greeted by a ghostly sight; 328 life jacketed men, women, and children floating in the water, frozen to death.

And why did they die? Not because the Titanic sank,

But because the people who were already saved would not go back for the people who were not.

ARMY OF GOD: GO GET THE MEPHIBOSHETHS!

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. (NKJV)

- **Come forward quickly**

LET'S PRAY:

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THINK ABOUT THAT FOR THE NEXT WEEK! (AND BEYOND...)

Heb 13:20-21 Now the God of peace, who brought again from the dead the Great Shepherd of the sheep with the blood of an eternal covenant, even our Lord Jesus, make you perfect in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen. (NJKV)