

# When You're in Good Times...

## What We Are Learning In This Series:

1. We learn a lot about someone by watching how they respond in really bad or in really good times.
2. Life is all about good times and bad times. As Christians, we need to be able to handle both of them properly.

## David's Question

*"The king asked, 'Is there no one still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?'"* - 2 Samuel 9:3

1. The practice of most kings was to solidify one's position and to kill the offspring of previous kings.
2. In what appears to be the most successful and exciting moment of David's life, he stops to consider others.
3. David wants to show God's kindness and also keep a promise.

## The Response

"Yes, there is a son of Jonathan still alive.  
He is crippled in both feet."

*"(Jonathan son of Saul had a son who was lame in both feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel. His nurse picked him up and fled, but as she hurried to leave, he fell and became crippled. His name was Mephibosheth.)"*  
- 2 Samuel 4:4

- He was living in Lo Debar near Gibeon and he had been forgotten.
- David had this man — Mephi-Boshet — brought to the palace. He must have been terrified, assuming that he would be put to death. (Remember that his name means "Scattered shame")



KING DAVID'S KINDNESS TO A LAME MAN

## David's Words to Mephibosheth

- Don't be afraid. (You only say this to someone who is afraid!)
- I will show you kindness.
- I will restore to you the land of your grandfather.
- You will eat at my table. *And it was so!*

*"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

## Mephibosheth's Response

- He bowed before David.
- He called himself a "dead dog".
  - The meaning? Sound familiar?  
*"Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea?"* - 1 Samuel 24:14



## Points to Consider

1. David was experiencing the best times of his life and yet he thought about others.
  - *When times are good, who is it that you think about?*
2. David wanted to keep a promise made many years before.
  - *Are there promises that you need to remember and keep?*
3. David didn't care what others thought about this young man eating at his table. It was the right thing to do!
  - *"...he always ate at the king's table, and he was crippled in both feet."* - 2 Samuel 9:13
  - *"Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility - young men without any physical defect, handsome..."* - Daniel 1:3,4
  - *"But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind..."* - Luke 14:13
  - *Do you fail to do the right thing because of what others might think?*

## Some Lessons to Take Home

1. It is wise to take the time and effort to bless others.
2. It shows integrity to keep promises; even when delayed.
3. It shows strength to take a stand that is right when the perception of others is different than your own.
4. It is good to show kindness to those who cannot repay you.
  - *"But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."* - Luke 14:13,14



5. Many times, when we bless others, we are blessed in return.
  - *"When David came to Mahanaim, Shobi son of Nahash from Rabbah of the Ammonites, and Makir son of Ammiel from Lo Debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim brought bedding and bowls and articles of pottery. They also brought wheat and barley, flour and roasted grain, beans and lentils."* - 2 Samuel 9:13
  - *"Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again."* - Ecclesiastes 11:2

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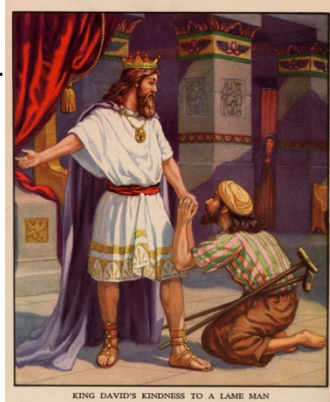
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