

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message Ten : David, Mephibosheth, and the Kindness of God

I. Overview:

Second Samuel 9:1-13 is a record of David's showing kindness to Mephibosheth. David felt obliged to show kindness for the sake of Jonathan. David asked a servant, "Is there yet anyone at all of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?" The servant told David that there was still a son of Jonathan, Mephibosheth, who was crippled in his feet. David told 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. Lo-debar, the place where Mephibosheth lived, that means a place without grass, without pasture. Mephibosheth did not seek after David, but David sent men to fetch Mephibosheth. We all are like Mephibosheth, who was crippled in his feet. Although Mephibosheth dined with the king often, his two feet still remained lame. After we have been saved, we should forget about our crippled feet. What God has spread out for us is wonderful, rich; we simply need to eat. David's kindness to Mephibosheth signifies the kindness of God. Kindness issues out of the mercy and love of God. God's mercy is like a bridge that brought us to His salvation of grace. In the ages to come, God will display His grace, kindness toward us.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound how David showed kindness to all of the house of Saul.

Second Samuel 9 is a record of David's showing kindness to Mephibosheth. David felt obliged to show kindness, for the sake of Jonathan, to any remaining descendant of the house of Saul. David asking, "Is there yet anyone at all of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?" The servant told him that there was still a son of Jonathan, one who was crippled in his feet.

B. Describe the situation of us as sinners does like that of the house of Saul.

Mephibosheth's grandfather, Saul, was David's enemy. Mephibosheth thought, "My grandfather was David's enemy; therefore, David must hate me." This is the way we also think. But God is not the same as we. Mephibosheth had no ground to receive grace, yet he received it. The same is true with regard to us and God.

Day 2 —

A. Expound what the spiritual meaning has of Mephibosheth living in Lo-debar.

Lo-debar is a Hebrew word which means "a place without grass." The world today is a "Lo-debar"; it can never fill up man's hunger or quench man's thirst. "Lo-debar" can never satisfy our heart. The promises of the world are all unusable currencies. The world only brings you discouragement and disappointment, just like living in a place without grass.

B. Explain what David did when he heard Mephibosheth living in Lo-debar.

Then king David sent men to fetch him from Lodebar. Some people think that because we are so fallen, surely we should seek after God. But this is not how things work! If God had to wait for us to seek Him before He saved us, we would probably never be saved because we would never seek after Him. We did not seek after God, but God sent His Son to seek us and bring us back to His presence.

Day 3 —

A. State what the spiritual significance is when He called the name Mary.

Mary the Magdalene thought the Lord was a gardener. The Lord only said, "Mary!" As soon as she heard this very familiar voice, she said, "Rabboni!" We know that when someone calls another by name only, there must be considerable meaning behind it. On that day David saw his enemy's grandson, and he only said, "Mephibosheth." This shows that David's heart was full of compassion.

B. Explain how Mephibosheth felt when he came to see David.

Mephibosheth did not know David's heart. When he went to David, his heart might have been beating fast, and he might have been thinking, "Today I am going to see the king of Judah; maybe he will kill me." When he saw David and heard him call, "Mephibosheth," he should have known that David had only compassion and no bad intention toward him. But with a heart full of fear, he said, "Your servant is here."

Day 4 —

A. Why do we say that we are like Mephibosheth as being lame?

Mephibosheth was lame; he was unable to walk. King David preserved his life, restored to him all his inheritance, and invited him to feast with him at the same table. Mephibosheth only looked at the riches on David's table, and never looked at his lame legs underneath the table. Whenever we look at our lame legs, we become discouraged. We should forget about our lame legs and only look at the riches on the Lord's table.

B. Explain that we are saved by grace initially, being also kept in this salvation by grace.

Many mistakenly have a concept that they were initially saved by grace but they are kept in this salvation by work. However, there is no such thing. We should realize that the condition for salvation is the condition for preservation. We are saved by Jesus, and we are kept by Jesus to the end. Although Mephibosheth dined with the king often, his two feet still remained lame.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the New Testament revealing the divine attribute of kindness.

The New Testament reveals the divine attribute of kindness. Romans 11:22, speaking of the kindness of God and His severity, emphasizes the attribute of God's kindness. Furthermore, Ephesians 2:7 declares, "That He might display in the ages to come the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." Kindness is a benevolent goodness which issues out of mercy and love.

B. Expound the word in Romans 2:4, and how to apply it?

The apostle seems to say, "On one hand, you condemn others, and on the other hand, you commit the same sins. You think that God will not judge you. You seem to not know that He surely will judge you." He has not judged you yet because He is kind toward you. His kindness causes Him to forbear you, and His forbearance causes Him to be long-suffering toward you. He is so kind to you because He wants to lead you to repentance.

Day 6 —

A. Expound the words in Ephesians 2:7, and how can we experience?

Ephesians 2:7 says that the riches of God's grace are given to us in His kindness. Suppose that a brother who has fallen into desolation comes to see me. I may not like him very much, knowing long ago that he would go astray. Nevertheless, as I consider his condition, I am moved with compassion to treat him generously and be kind to him. This is the grace that I give him, and this grace is given in my kindness toward him.

B. Explain in our pitiful situation that the grace of God is given to us in such kindness.

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. He did not abandon us, but rather had mercy on us. His mercy and His love caused Him to be kind toward us.

III. Conclusion:

We were saved by grace initially, and we are also kept in this salvation by grace. We are saved by Jesus, and we are kept by Jesus to the end. Although Mephibosheth dined with the king often, his two feet still remained lame. Our two feet are lame, but they are under the table. We should just eat what is on the table. What God has spread out here is wonderful, rich, and sweet. We just need to eat. We should not look at ourselves. Instead, we should look at the riches God has given us. Self-introspection is not our portion. If we keep our eyes upon the Lord, we will go from glory to glory and be transformed into His image. If we look at ourselves, we will be just like Mephibosheth with two feet lame. After we are saved, we receive a new life, and the Holy Spirit lives within us; we become entirely new. As long as we are still in this body, our two feet are still lame. We should not look at ourselves. We should only look at the riches and the grace that God has spread before us. When we do this, our hearts will be satisfied.