

Simply a Shepherd
"Compassion"
2 Samuel 9

I. Prayer

II. Hook

One Spring afternoon, I came home to find two little girls on the steps of my building. Both were crying hard, shedding big tears.

Thinking they might be hurt, I dropped my briefcase and quickly went over to them. "Are you all right?" I asked.

Still sobbing, one held up her doll. "My baby's arm came off," she said.

I took the doll and its disjointed arm. After a little effort and luck, the doll was again whole.

"Thank you." came a whisper.

Next looking into the tearful eyes of her friend, I asked, "and what's the matter with you, young lady?"

She wiped her cheeks. "I was helping her cry," she said.

III. Text

- a. **2 Samuel 9:1-13** - David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?" Now there was a servant of Saul's household named Ziba. They called him to appear before David, and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" "Your servant," he replied. The king asked, "Is there no one still left

of the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?" Ziba answered the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet." "Where is he?" the king asked. Ziba answered, "He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar." So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel. When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor. David said, "Mephibosheth!" "Your servant," he replied. "Don't be afraid," David said to him, "for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table." Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?" Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master's grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table." (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.) Then Ziba said to the king, "Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table like one of the king's sons. Mephibosheth had a young son named Mica, and all the members of Ziba's household were servants of Mephibosheth. And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king's table, and he was crippled in both feet.

IV. Message

- a. Five traits to look for in a good friend:
- b. Integrity (2 Samuel 9:1).

- i. **2 Samuel 9:1** - David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"
 - ii. Jonathan was the first born son of King Saul. Jonathan had taken David under his wing as a young man and befriended him and mentored him. Jonathan recognized that God was with David and knew that David would be king instead of him. He asked David however for kindness to he and his family once David was established as king.
 - iii. **1 Samuel 20:14-15** – “But show me unfailing kindness like that of the LORD as long as I live, so that I may not be killed, and do not ever cut off your kindness from my family...”
 - iv. Jonathan was killed in battle with the Philistines and it was up to David to follow through on his promise to Jonathan to show kindness to his family. No one reminds David of this or confronts him about it; he does on his own accord. That is integrity.
 - v. **Proverbs 18:24 (NLT)** - There are "friends" who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.
- c. Humility (2 Samuel 9:6-7).
- i. **2 Samuel 9:6-7a** - When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor. David said, "Mephibosheth!" "Your servant," he replied. "Don't be afraid," David

said to him, "for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan..."

- ii. Because David is the king he doesn't have to do anything for Mephibosheth but he does because of his integrity. When Mephibosheth arrives David speaks to him by name and alleviates any fear that Mephibosheth would have at this point.
 - iii. Mephibosheth knows that the strategic move from a political standpoint would be for David to kill him so as to eliminate the only heir to the throne of Saul. Thus Mephibosheth has much reason to be afraid and yet David humbles himself and speaks to Mephibosheth personally.
 - iv. **Philippians 2:3** - Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.
- d. Generosity (2 Samuel 9:9-10).
- i. **2 Samuel 9:9-10** - Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master's grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table."
 - ii. David did not have to give anything to Mephibosheth but he was willing to share out of the abundance of his resources.

- iii. **Psalm 37:21** - The wicked borrow and never repay, but the godly are generous givers.
 - iv. **1 Timothy 6:17-18** - Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others.
 - v. We can't buy a true friend but we should be generous with a good friend. When we have a genuine need and are struggling financially we should be able to trust in a friend to help us out.
- e. Loyalty (2 Samuel 16:1-4).
- i. **2 Samuel 16:1-4** - When David had gone a short distance beyond the summit, there was Ziba, the steward of Mephibosheth, waiting to meet him. He had a string of donkeys saddled and loaded with two hundred loaves of bread, a hundred cakes of raisins, a hundred cakes of figs and a skin of wine. The king asked Ziba, "Why have you brought these?" Ziba answered, "The donkeys are for the king's household to ride on, the bread and fruit are for the men to eat, and the wine is to refresh those who become exhausted in the desert." The king then asked, "Where is your master's grandson?" Ziba said to him, "He is staying in Jerusalem, because he thinks, 'Today the house of Israel will give me back my grandfather's kingdom.'" Then the king said to Ziba, "All that belonged to Mephibosheth is now yours." "I humbly bow," Ziba said. "May I find favor in your eyes, my lord the king."

- ii. David had done everything he could to show Mephibosheth kindness because of his friendship with Jonathan. He treated Mephibosheth as his own son. This accusation had to hurt David deeply. Not have time to investigate the accusation of Ziba David takes him at face value.
 - iii. It appears that Mephibosheth friendship towards David only lasted as long as David had the ability to provide for Mephibosheth's needs. Once David had lost power and was fleeing from the palace, Mephibosheth apparently turns his back on him.
 - iv. This is not what loyalty looks like. A good friend will remain by your side through the most difficult of times. There will be those people who only befriend you because of your title or position but those "friends" are not really friends at all. True friends are your friends no matter what happens.
 - v. **Proverbs 19:4** - Wealth brings many friends, but a poor man's friend deserts him.
- f. Forgiveness (2 Samuel 19:24-29).
- i. **2 Samuel 19:24-29** - Mephibosheth, Saul's grandson, also went down to meet the king...the king asked him, "Why didn't you go with me, Mephibosheth?" He said, "My lord the king, since I your servant am lame, I said, 'I will have my donkey saddled and will ride on it, so I can go with the king.' But Ziba my servant betrayed me. And he has slandered your servant to my lord the king. My lord the king is like an angel of God; so do whatever pleases you. All my grandfather's descendants

deserved nothing but death from my lord the king, but you gave your servant a place among those who sat at your table. So what right do I have to make any more appeals to the king?" The king said to him, "Why say more? I order you and Ziba to divide the fields."

- ii. No friendship can last without the willingness to forgive another person.
- iii. **Matthew 18:21-22 (ESV)** - Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.
- iv. If you have a heart that is unwilling to forgive you will find yourself without any friends

V. Conclusion