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“Generosity”

The F.R.U.I.T. of Gratitude

The Story of David and Mephibosheth

Scripture References: 2 Samuel 9:1–13; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Matthew 10:8; 1 Peter 4:10

The generosity that flows to us, flows through us.

Have you ever received something wonderful from someone who did not expect anything in return? Maybe someone helped you when you were in trouble, gave you something you needed, or showed you kindness when you felt forgotten. How did that make you feel?

When someone shows us kindness, it reminds us that we are loved, valued, and significant. The Bible teaches us that God wants us to show that same kindness to others.

One of the most beautiful stories in the Bible is about a king named David and a man named Mephibosheth. Their story is found in 2 Samuel 9. It teaches us about three important things: **generosity, gratitude, and grace.**

David was a king who remembered a promise he had made to his good friend Jonathan. Jonathan had died, but David had not forgotten his promise. He wanted to find someone from Jonathan's family so he could show them kindness.

One day David asked, “Is anyone in Saul’s family still alive—anyone to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?" (2 Samuel 9:1 NLT).

David learned that Jonathan had a son named Mephibosheth. He was unable to walk because both of his feet were injured. He may have felt forgotten, alone, and unsure about his future and David wanted to change his life.

This story reminds us that God does not bless us just so we can enjoy the blessings ourselves. He blesses us so we can share God’s generosity with others.

The main lesson is simple: God’s generosity flows to us so that it can flow through us.

1. David Teaches Us About Generosity

Generosity means being willing to share what we have with others. It means giving, helping, and showing kindness without expecting something in return.

When David became king, he could have forgotten about his promise to Jonathan. He could have focused only on himself and his kingdom. Instead, he remembered his friend and looked for an opportunity to help his family. Mephibosheth did not go looking for David. David went looking for him!

That is a powerful example of generosity. David did not wait for someone to ask for help. He looked for someone he could bless.

When Mephibosheth was brought before the king, David did three wonderful things.

First, David returned all the land that had belonged to his grandfather Saul. This gave Mephibosheth a way to provide for himself and his family.

Second, David provided servants to take care of the land and help manage his household.

Third, David invited Mephibosheth to eat regularly at the king's table.

Think about that for a moment. David did not simply give Mephibosheth something. He gave him a place where he would always be welcomed. David restored more than his possessions. He restored his dignity, security, and sense of belonging.

This teaches us that generosity is not just about giving money or expensive gifts. Sometimes generosity means giving someone your time, encouraging them when they are sad, helping them when they are struggling, or making them feel welcome.

We can all be generous, even if we do not have a lot of money.

Remember: You do not have to be rich to be generous. You simply need a heart that is willing to bless others.

2. Mephibosheth Teaches Us About Humility and Gratitude

Gratitude means being thankful for the kindness and blessings we receive. It means recognizing that what we have is a gift and not something we should take for granted.

When Mephibosheth came before King David, he bowed down before him. He did not act like he deserved special treatment. Instead, he showed respect and humility.

In 2 Samuel 9:8 (NLT), Mephibosheth asked: "Who is your servant, that you should show such kindness to a dead dog like me?"

Mephibosheth was surprised that the king would show him so much kindness. He could hardly believe that someone as important as David would care about him.

Mephibosheth had every reason to feel forgotten. His life had changed when he was young, and he may have wondered what his future would look like. Yet David welcomed him and gave him a place at his table.

The Bible does not directly say that Mephibosheth was grateful, but his humble response shows that he understood how special David's kindness was. This teaches us an important lesson: We should never take the kindness of others or the blessings of God for granted.

Sometimes we become so used to the good things in our lives that we forget to say thank you. We should be thankful for our families, our friends, our health, our homes, and the people who help us along the way. Most of all, we should be thankful for God's love and grace.

Remember: A grateful heart recognizes that life's greatest blessings are gifts, not rewards we have earned.

3. God's Grace Teaches Us to Show Unconditional Kindness

Grace means receiving kindness and goodness that we have not earned or cannot repay.

David showed Mephibosheth kindness without expecting anything in return. He did not invite him to the palace because Mephibosheth could do something for him. He invited him because David wanted to honor his promise to Jonathan.

This is a beautiful picture of God's grace.

God loves us, cares for us, and shows us kindness even when we make mistakes. We cannot earn His love by being perfect. His goodness is a gift.

Through Jesus Christ, God has made a way for us to receive His love, forgiveness, and salvation.

Think about the story again. Mephibosheth did not expect to receive a place at the king's table. He came before David with humility, but he received much more than he could have imagined.

In the same way, God's grace gives us more than we could ever earn on our own.

This story also teaches us how to treat other people. We should not only be kind to people who can help us. We should not only love people who agree with us or give us something in return. We should show kindness because God has been kind to us.

Sometimes the person who needs encouragement the most is the person everyone else has forgotten. Sometimes the person who needs love the most is the person who feels unimportant.

We can make a difference by showing them that they matter. A simple smile, a kind word, a helping hand, or an invitation to join us can change someone's day.

Remember: True kindness is not about what someone can give you. It is about what you are willing to give them.

4. Three Scriptures That Teach Us to Be a Blessing

The story of David and Mephibosheth teaches us about generosity, humility, and grace. Three other Bible verses help us understand how to live these lessons every day.

A. 2 Corinthians 9:8 — God Provides for Us

The Bible says:

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (NIV)

This verse reminds us that God is the source of our blessings. He gives us what we need so we can do good things and help others.

God does not bless us just to make our lives better. He also wants to use our blessings to make someone else's life better.

For example, if God gives you the ability to encourage people, use that gift to lift someone up. If He gives you extra resources, look for someone who needs help.

Key lesson: God blesses us so we can bless others.

B. Matthew 10:8 — Freely Give What You Have Received

Jesus told His disciples:

"Freely ye have received, freely give." (KJV)

Jesus was teaching His followers to share what they had received from God. They were not supposed to make money or personal gain the reason for helping others.

The same lesson applies to us today.

God has freely given us love, forgiveness, mercy, and grace. We should be willing to share those same things with others.

If someone encourages you, encourage someone else. If someone helps you, look for an opportunity to help another person.

Do not always ask, "What will I get in return?"

Instead, ask, "Who can I bless today?"

Key lesson: Share the goodness God has placed in your life.

C. 1 Peter 4:10 — Use Your Gifts to Serve Others

The Bible says:

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (NIV)

God has given every person special gifts and abilities. Some people are good teachers. Others are good leaders, helpers, encouragers, or listeners.

Your gifts may be different from someone else's, but every gift has value.

God does not want us to hide our gifts or use them only for ourselves. He wants us to use them to help people and build His kingdom.

When you use your gifts to serve others, you become a blessing in their lives.

You do not have to do something big to make a difference. Sometimes the smallest act of kindness can have the greatest impact.

Key lesson: Your gifts are not just for your benefit. They are opportunities to bless someone else.

Conclusion: Make Your Life a Blessing to Others

The story of David and Mephibosheth reminds us that one act of kindness can change someone's life.

David used what he had to bless another person. Mephibosheth received that kindness with humility. And through their story, we learn something wonderful about God's grace.

We also learn three important principles from God's Word:

- **God provides:** He gives us what we need to accomplish His purpose.

- **We generously give:** We share with others what God has freely given to us.

- **We faithfully serve:** We use our gifts, talents, and abilities to help others.

Think about the people God has placed in your life. Is there someone who needs encouragement? Is there someone who feels forgotten? Is there someone who could use a helping hand?

You do not have to wait until you have more money, more time, or more opportunities. You can start blessing others right where you are.

Remember, David did not invite Mephibosheth to the table because of what Mephibosheth could offer him. He invited him because of the kindness and promise already in his heart.

That is the kind of heart God wants us to have.

Let us become people who look for opportunities to show kindness, who are thankful for the blessings we receive, and who willingly share God's goodness with others.

Never forget: Generosity gives freely, gratitude receives humbly, and grace brings us to the King's table.

Our lives should be a reflection of God's love and goodness.

Let this be our declaration:

I am blessed by God to be a blessing to others. I will be thankful for what He has given me, generous with what He has placed in my hands, and faithful in using my gifts to serve others. My life will be a reflection of God's grace, generosity, and goodness.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. David went looking for someone he could bless. What are some ways we can look for opportunities to help others instead of waiting for someone to ask?

2. Mephibosheth was surprised by David's kindness. What are three blessings in your life that you sometimes forget to thank God for?

3. David showed kindness without expecting anything in return. Why do you think it is important to show kindness even when someone cannot repay us?

4. According to 1 Peter 4:10, we should use our gifts to serve others. What gifts, talents, or abilities has God given you, and how can you use them to bless someone this week?

5. If God has blessed us so that we can bless others, who is one person you can encourage, help, or show kindness to this week? What specific action will you take?

Final thought for the group: "Don't just count your blessings. Become a blessing!"When we understand God's generosity toward us, we should become generous toward others. We are blessed to be a blessing!