

A PICTURE OF GRACE

2 Samuel 9:1-13

It is often heard that “a picture is worth a thousand words.” This is surely true as Job tells that the eye is a better learner than the ear. (Job 42:5) Word pictures are also powerful and have great teaching power.

Last week we saw the wonderful grace and kindness of God extended to an old priest and his wife, as God worked. There is a wonderful story in the Old Testament that beautifully pictures God’s grace and kindness to us.

THREE CONSIDERATIONS OF THE AMAZING GRACE THAT GOD HAS LAVISHED UPON

US. For it is only by grace that we have been saved!!!

I. **The Grace Of God Is Wonderful And Totally Unexpected.**

- A. The first time we see God’s grace in the Bible is found in Genesis 3 when our first parents sinned and yet continued to live even after God’s threat. “if you eat, you die!”
We would have expected both of them to be executed. But no...
- B. Grace is defined as God’s unmerited favor. That is, God treats us kindly, even giving us gifts...
 - 1. This is what Paul teaches us when he tells that “it is by GRACE that you are...(Eph2:8)
 - 2. Because we are born sinners, and sin, we never ask God to give us what is fair. This would call for His justice and with that we would be wiped out. We ask for His grace!

II. **David’s Kindness To Mephibosheth Beautifully Portrays God’s Grace.** (2Samuel 9:1ff)

- A. In the ancient day, when a king took command, he would systematically kill any he perceived to be a threat to his throne. The king of a new family would kill all the descendants of the former.
 - 1. When David assumed the throne of Israel after King Saul and his son Jonathan were killed on the battlefield, the descendants of Saul ran for their lives. (2 Samuel 4)
 - 2. Jonathan’s son, Mephibosheth, was only 5 years old at that time and was injured during the flight out of town. As a result, he was an invalid, lamed for life. (4:4)
- B. David’s reign, prior to his great sin, had been abundantly blessed by God. Only victorious...
 - 1. He has greatly expanded the size of the nation, from 6,000 to 60,000 square miles.
 - 2. David is happy and healthy. His world is at peace. The nation is prosperous.
- C. At this moment, David remembered his covenant with Jonathan, and asked if there were any descendants of Jonathan still living that he might show kindness. (9:1) “for Jonathan’s sake.”
 - 1. At this point, David has been king for 15-20 years.
 - 2. Ziba, a servant of King Saul’s household is called forth to answer the king. (9:3)
 - 3. He answered David, “yes, there is a son of Jonathan, but he is a cripple.” (3b)

