

Winter Quarter I - God Requires Justice December 12, 2021

Topic: The Mercy of Justice

Text: 2 Samuel 9:1-7; 9-12

Expositions:

- I. Seeking To Act Justly – 1 Samuel 9:1-7**
- II. Provision For Just Treatment – 1 Samuel 9:9-12**

INTRODUCTION

I love studying the Bible for many reasons. Mainly, because it is God's Word and I find in it the elements that guarantee my salvation through Jesus Christ from beginning to end. The way The Bible is set up is divided into two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament consists of the law, history, poetry, the major prophets, the minor prophets (so called only because of the volume of written text), and the New Testament has the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, the early church, the letters of the apostle Paul, the general letters and the Revelation of Jesus Christ. The whole Bible is a document that is alive in that it speaks to all of life's circumstances even in our modern world.

There are many dramatic events found in the Bible and one of the greatest dramas in the Bible is about Saul, David and Jonathan and their relationship, which is detailed in the books of 1st and 2nd Samuel. Saul was the first king of Israel. At first, Saul didn't want to be king, but the people wanted him and so God gave them their desire. God told them what

Saul would do before he did it, but they wanted him anyway. So, Saul began well enough but he soon turned to worshipping idols and turned away from God's directions. We've heard about David and Goliath from our youth and we know how much David loved God and God loved David. Well, God told the prophet Samuel that because Saul had turned away from Him that He was going to take the kingdom away from Saul and make David king. Although Saul had liked David at first, that made Saul paranoid and when women in Jerusalem began singing songs that elevated David's victories as being greater than Saul's, that sent Saul over the edge and from that time on he sought to kill David. David had become fast friends with Saul's son Jonathan and Saul had even given David his daughter, Michal, to be his wife as a reward for defeating Goliath. Saul began to look for opportunity to kill David but Michal and especially Jonathan always helped David escape. Of course, that made Saul even madder and at one point he even thought about killing Jonathan. Jonathan and David had become such good friends that David promised Jonathan that if he ever became king that he would always be kind to Saul and Jonathan's descendants.

Well, eventually Saul and Jonathan were killed in battle and David became king in Judah. After some time, there was finally total peace in Israel and as David reflected on his life, he remembered his promise to Jonathan and decided that it was time to act on it.

I. Seeking To Act Justly – 1 Samuel 9:1-7

“ (1) And David said, ‘Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan’s sake.’ (2) And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba.

And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, 'Art thou Ziba?' And he said, 'Thy servant is he.' (3) And the king said, 'Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him?' And Ziba said unto the king, 'Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.' (4) And the king said unto him, 'Where is he?' And Ziba said unto the king, 'Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.' (5) Then king David sent and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar. (6) Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, 'Mephibosheth?' And he answered, 'Behold thy servant!' (7) And David said unto him, 'Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father: and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.'

After some time David became king. Mephibosheth was five years old when Saul and Jonathan died, and now he has a son of his own. So, it has been some years now since Saul and Jonathan had been killed in battle. It is good sometimes to think whether there's any promises that we have neglected to make good. If so, better late than never.

- David sought an opportunity to do good. He inquires of the remnants of Saul's household to the people around him first, and, when he met with a person that was likely to inform him, asked him particularly, ***Is there any yet left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness? v. 3.*** Good people seek opportunities to do good.
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- Those David asked were there anyone that remained of the house of Saul. Saul had a very big family (**1 Chr. 8:33**), enough to replenish a country, and was yet it became so

empty. Likely because of his rejection of God's authority. The providence of God can fill or empty full families.

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- David was Saul's sworn enemy, and yet David would show kindness to Saul's house with all his heart and wanted to do it. David wanted to show kindness to the house of Saul because he forgave what they had done to him. We have to be sincere in forgiving those that have treated us unjustly by being ready, as we have opportunity, to show kindness both to them and theirs. This is the way to overcome evil, and to find mercy for ourselves and ours, when we, or they need it. (Proverbs 25:22, Romans 12:20)

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- Jonathan was David's sworn friend, and therefore he would show kindness to his house. This teaches us, to be mindful of our promises. The kindness we have promised we must perform. God is faithful to us; let us not be unfaithful to one another.

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- ***He that has friends must show himself friendly, Prov. 18:24.*** If in God's providential favor, He has raised us up, and others are less fortunate than we are, we must not forget our former misfortunes, but rather look on the current situation as an opportunity to be kind to others. When others that have treated us unkindly are in a bad position, and we a better position and have capacity to help them, we should do so. Yes, you're right...we don't have an obligation to do good to those who have mistreated us, yet Christ encourages us to do well to all those because it is just like doing it for Him. (Matthew 25:40-45) Being renewed in a relationship with Jesus Christ obliges us to recognize an opportunity to be kind.

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- The kindness that David promised to show to Saul's household recalls the **kindness of God** to us, because when I was still in my sins, Christ died for me...the un-Godly. To be kind is to be in step with God's example; for we must be merciful as He is merciful. God has the advantage over us, yet He spares us by showing His mercy to us when we don't deserve it. Yes, you are correct once again...the kindness of God is certainly greater than the kindness of an ordinary human. However, our kindness can be done in a godly manner, and with an eye to God, to give Him honor and praise.
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- Ziba was a servant in Saul's family, and kept up with where Saul's relatives were because he was living very well, he and his family, off of Saul's estate and didn't want to give that up. When David sent for him, he said that Jonathan's son was living, but *lame* and that he lived in obscurity with someone possibly not of Saul's household, in Lo-debar...that is a desert place. Mephibosheth was *forgotten, as a dead man out of mind*. The king sent for Mephibosheth to be brought up to Jerusalem out of the household of Machir. Machir appears to have been a very generous and free-hearted man, to have had a hand in raising Mephibosheth. We see that Machir was also kind to David himself when he fled from Absalom. He is named (**ch. 17:27**) among those that gave the king what he wanted at Mahanaim. David, likely didn't even know what Machir had done for him. So, we find that we should be ready to "pay it forward" because we may find ourselves in need at some time.
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- Now, Mephibosheth presented himself to David with all the respect that was due to the king. He knew of the

troubles David had with Saul and likely feared that David wanted to eliminate him as a potential threat to his kingdom. As lame as he was, **he fell on his face, and did homage, v. 6.** When we are in an inferior position and we show respect to those in authority, when we come to be the authority we will have respect shown to us. David told him not be afraid: **Fear not, v. 7** because he had brought him there to give him good news. If you are in a position of authority you shouldn't take pleasure in people being afraid of you, but you should encourage them.

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- David restores the land and belongings of Saul to Mephibosheth, which had been forfeited by Ishbosheth, one of Jonathan's brothers, in his rebellion against David. Although he had given him his father's estate back, which was sufficient to maintain him and his family, yet for Jonathan's sake he made him to be a constant guest in his own house and at his own table. Because of David's relationship with Jonathan, David took Mephibosheth to be one of his family.

- It is good to have a humble heart. Have you ever known someone that takes every favor as a debt? Although you were doing something out of the kindness of your heart, they felt like they owed you and had to do something for you in return. If, and when, we receive grace through others, remember it is from God's hand, in His divine Providence, we should receive the kindness with humility and therefore be exalted.

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II. Provision For Just Treatment – 1 Samuel 9:9-12

(9) Then the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said unto him, 'I have given unto thy master's son all that pertained to Saul and to all his house. (10) Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in the fruits, that thy master's son may have food to eat: but Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread always at my table.' Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. (11) The said Ziba unto the king, 'According to all that my lord the king hath commanded his servant so shall thy servant do.' 'As for Mephibosheth,' said the king, 'he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons. (12) And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Micha. And all that dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants unto Mephibosheth.

- I've heard it said that there is a saying among the Jews that "He that multiplies servants multiplies thieves." David now tells Ziba and all around that Saul's estate is confirmed to Mephibosheth. So Ziba, his 15 sons and 20 servants, who had been living large off of his master Saul's estate, is now relegated back to the status of servant. But this is not the last time we hear about Ziba. We see him again in chapters 16 & 19 being deceitful. But for now, Mephibosheth is the lawful master of all of Saul's estate.
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- David let his kindness to Mephibosheth serve to illustrate the kindness and love of God our Savior towards fallen man. Jesus did not have to become a man to sacrifice Himself for us, but He did. But, He was under no obligation to. Man-kind is guilty of rebellion against God, and, like Saul's house, under a sentence of rejection from Him. Man-kind was not only brought low and impoverished, but lame and impotent,

made so by the fall that happened first in the Garden of Eden. The Son of God loved this degenerate race that didn't love Him, yet He still came to seek and save them who were lost. To those of them that humble themselves before Him, and commit themselves to Him, He restores the forfeited inheritance, He entitles us to a better paradise than that which Adam lost, and takes us to communion with Himself.

CONCLUSION

True friendship will be generous, always. To keep a promise whether made yesterday or yester-year shows the working of God, The Holy Spirit within us. The Bible tells us in Ecclesiastes 5:5 that, "It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it. Do not let your mouth lead you into sin. And do not protest to the temple message, 'My vow was a mistake.' Why should God be angry at what you say and destroy the work of your hands." There are many consequences to breaking your word.

We live in a world where lying and breaking promises are the norm. According to politicians and other talking heads, the truth is not the truth. These also say you can't believe what your eyes see or your ears hear. Or even what is recorded on video. However, for those who confess a love for Christ, our agreements, written or verbal, have to be kept. Just as we want the Almighty God to do as He promised, we want others to keep their promises to us. James says let your 'yes' be yes and your 'no' be no. Anything beyond that comes from the evil one. If we can't be trusted with small issues, how can we be trusted with bigger responsibilities? Finally, I have a suggestion for us: don't be so quick to say 'yes' without weighing the potential

cost involved in a commitment. God requires a different standard from His people, so let us seek Him to shape our integrity and let us walk honestly in peace with Him and our fellow man.