

## Covenant of Advantage

**Recap:** Last Sunday we looked at a statement made by Job as he was battling unprecedented adversity in his life. One of his friends quoted him as implying that the righteous have no more advantage than sinners when it comes to adversity. We looked at how the Bible states the opposite: while adversity comes to all of us, we DO have an advantage. We spoke about those things that God made available for us and that are to our advantage as believers.

**Today,** I want to look at someone in the Bible who had reasons to feel ‘disadvantaged’, left behind, overlooked – someone who in his own words was a ‘dead dog’, with nothing going for him.

**Text: 2 Samuel 9:1-11 NLT**

Mephibosheth was someone who lived most of his life in disadvantage, adversity, and fear. However, what I love about this story is how it illustrates what God can do in our lives – it reinforces so well what I shared last week about *God taking us from adversity to advantage!*

Here’s 3 things I want you to see today:

### **1. God is looking for someone**

**V. 3<sup>NKJV</sup>** *Then the king said, “Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?”*

Adversity has a way to make us feel forgotten and isolated, but the truth is God’s always looking for someone – someone in adversity, someone who feels left behind, overlooked, or disadvantaged. We see that clearly in the ministry of Jesus (John 5, Matthew 9:20-22 etc)

*Is there still someone?...* David wasn’t out to get this man; he was out to find him and bless him.

### **2. When God shows up, it is kindness we see**

The second thing we take from this story is God’s heart for people. He is kind. The word ‘kindness’ appears 4 times in this short passage.

This is clearly the kindness *of God*. Not necessarily the kindness of men but the kindness that God displays towards people like us.

**V.3 Amplified Bible (AMPC)** - *The king said, is there not still someone of the house of Saul to whom I may show the [unfailing, unsought, unlimited] mercy and kindness of God? Ziba replied, Jonathan has yet a son who is lame in his feet.*

Only the kindness of God is unfailing and unlimited! This passage is here to reveal God and His heart towards us today.

**V. 7** <sup>NKJV</sup> - *7 So David said to him, “Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father’s sake and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually.”*

- Mephibosheth did nothing to deserve this kindness (what a picture of grace)
- He didn’t receive it on the basis of any personal merit

### **3. God comes to change the story of our lives**

- a) When something bad happens we have all heard people say, ‘*well, that is the story of my life*’. This passage is here so we know that God can change the story of our lives!

God took him from being a dead dog under the table, to eating at the table as one of the kings’ sons. Mephibosheth was elevated to a place of advantage!

- b) He had probably lived most of his life thinking that he had nothing going for him. However, he was unaware of a covenant between his father and David.

**1 Samuel 18:3-4** <sup>NKJV</sup> - *3 Then Jonathan and David made a **covenant**, because he loved him as his own soul. 4 And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armour, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.*

Mindful of that covenant, David said,

**V.7** <sup>NKJV</sup> – *“I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan, your father’s sake”*

**I wonder how many people are living their lives in this world, limping through life, crippled in their thinking, going through adversity, unaware that there is a covenant of advantage sealed in the blood of Jesus!**

In this story, Mephibosheth is a type of all of us, David is a type of God and Jonathan a type of Jesus.

**That covenant gave him advantage in his adversity!** He could now seat at the king’s table. He could sit and he could eat! He could enjoy all the benefits of that position!

We have been brought into the covenant of Jesus, sealed in His blood. We can’t live our lives unaware of how advantageous that is!

With all the turmoil going on around us in the world right now, we need to remind ourselves that we have a covenant advantage, and that God is going to display His kindness towards us.

- c) **V.11b** – *“he shall eat at my table like one of the King’s sons”*

We don't eat crumbs that fall from the master's table – No. We eat like sons and daughters.

**Galatians 4:6-7<sup>NKJV</sup>** - *6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

He sets us free from the dead dog complex and gives us confidence.

**Ephesians 3:11-12<sup>NKJV</sup>** - *11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.*

Thank God for the blood covenant!

**Hebrews 10:19-22<sup>NKJV</sup>** - *Therefore brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,*

### **Conclusion**

As we go through these unprecedented times of hardship, remember that

- 1. God is always looking for someone** – someone feeling lost, isolated, forgotten...
- 2. God wants to show His kindness** – His kindness is revealed in so many ways.
- 3. God wants to change the story of our lives** – He is mindful of His covenant with His Son. That is a covenant of advantage.

Because of Jesus, we are seated in an advantageous position: right at the king's table. *"He prepares a table for us in the presence of our enemies"* – even in the presence of enemies and adversity, there is a table set out for us.