



The Heart of David

- I. Introduction. David revealed his heart of God in chapters 9-10. In these two chapters, David showed kindness and loyalty on two separate occasions. These two stories help us see why David was a man after God's heart. The story of Mephibosheth is also a metaphor for the gospel.

- II. David and Mephibosheth- 2 Samuel 9
 - A. In 1 Samuel 20:15, Jonathan said to David "But if I die, treat my family with this faithful love, even when the Lord destroys all your enemies." A few years later Saul and Jonathan were killed at the battle of Jezreel. When news of the battle reached the capital, the nurse of Jonathan's five-year-old son Mephibosheth grabbed him and fled. As she was running, she tripped and dropped the child, crippling him for life (2 Samuel 4:4). He escaped to Lo-debar in Gilead East of Jerusalem. He was the only living relative of Saul.

 - B. David's desire to help- 9:1-5. Many years later David wanted to make sure that he was true to his word. He wanted to show kindness to any relatives of Saul. David called for one of Saul's servants and asked if there were any of Saul's relatives still alive. One of the servants named Ziba told David that there was one surviving relative of Saul- Jonathan's crippled son Mephibosheth who lived in hiding in the desert of Gilead. David sent for him and brought him to the palace.

 - C. David's kindness to Mephibosheth- 9:6-8. Mephibosheth trembled before David. He assumed David wanted to kill him. Instead, David gave him all the land that Saul owned. David told him that he was simply fulfilling a vow that he made many years before. Mephibosheth was overwhelmed and humbled by David's kindness.

 - D. David brought Mephibosheth to his table- 9:9-13. David gave Mephibosheth Saul's servants to farm his land, and he moved Mephibosheth into the palace. He ate at David's table, and David treated him as one of his sons.

 - E. What does this story reveal about David's heart? What does this story reveal about the importance of keeping your word?

 - F. This story is an allegory of the gospel? In what ways does David reflect the character and nature of Jesus in this story? In what ways does Mephibosheth represent us as sinners before our King? What is your biggest takeaway from this story?

III. David and Hanun- 2 Samuel 10

- A. David's loyalty to Hanun- 10:1-2. One of David's allies, King Nahash of Ammon died. David wanted to show his loyalty and support to the King's son Hanun because Nahash had always been loyal to him. David sent ambassadors to Ammon to express sympathy to Hanun.
- B. Hanun's bad advice- 10:3-5. Hanun's advisors told him that David was coming to spy out the land so he could conquer Ammon. So Hanun shaved off half of each man's beard and cut off their robes at the buttocks and sent them home in disgrace. To avoid further humiliation David had the men stay in Jericho until their beards grew back.
- C. From bad to worse- 10:6-14. Hanun hired 33,000 mercenary soldiers from three countries to help him fight David. Joab schemed a battle plan and the Israelites defeated the mercenary soldiers. As hired soldiers they ran when they recognized what/who they were up against. It is interesting that verse 12 says "May the Lord's will be done." The Israelites fought under the mantle of faith in God.
- D. The victory- 10:15-19. Joab returned to Jerusalem. The Arameans regrouped with many additional troops from East of the Euphrates River under the leadership of Hadadezer. David himself led the armies of Israel and they defeated the Arameans. They surrendered and became subjects of David.
- E. This story began the same exact way as the Mephibosheth story. What do we learn about David's character from this story? Why is loyalty a Christian virtue?
- F. What was Hanun's major mistake? What lesson should we learn from his mistake? What did his mistake cost him?
- G. These two stories reflect the two responses to the kindness of the King. What lessons can we learn from these stories about our responses to our King?

