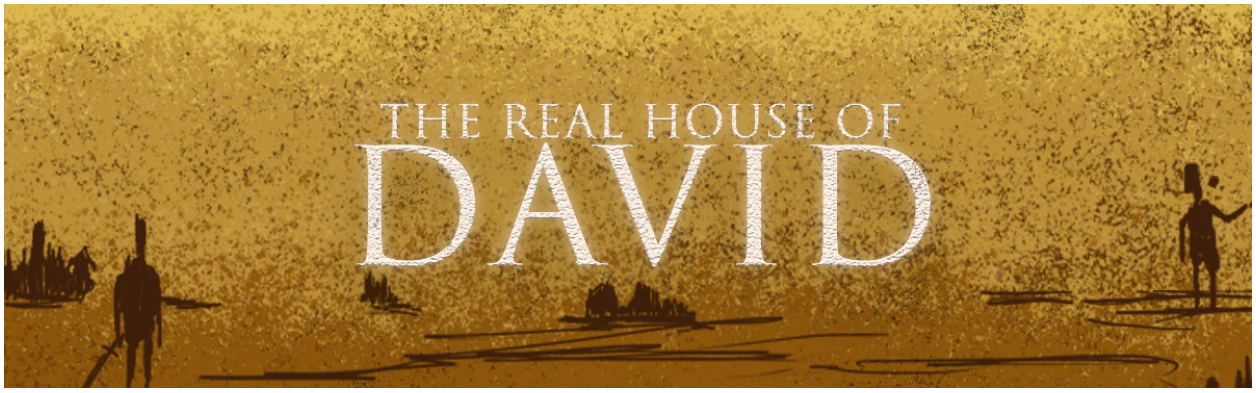


A CALL TO COMPASSION

2 Samuel 9:1-13

- **FRIEND SUNDAY will take place at Celebration on August 10.**
    - **Friends are so important to us that we can determine our "wealth" by the quality of friends we have in our lives.**
    - ***Who can I ask to come with me to Celebration on FRIEND SUNDAY?***
- **Being compassionate to others helps us develop great friends.**
- "I went out to find a friend, and couldn't find one anywhere. I went out to be a friend, and friends were everywhere." (Anonymous)
- **Kindness and/or compassion is an attribute God's people and good friends portray in their lives.**
- *"Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."* (Colossians 3:12)
- **One reason David was a "difference-maker" was because he showed kindness and compassion to others (2 Samuel 9:1-13)**
- *"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)
- ***Why should we be compassionate towards others, and how can we become more compassionate towards others?***

Being Compassionate Requires:

BELIEVING WE SHOULD HELP HURTING PEOPLE

- *"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)
- ***Why should we be kind and compassionate to others?***
- **We should want to be compassionate and kind to others because *God has been Compassionate and Kind to Us.***

- *"When God our Savior revealed His kindness and love, He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit."* (Titus 3:4-5)

- **We should want to be compassionate and kind to others because *We want Others to be Compassionate and Kind to us*.**
  - Jesus said in the Golden Rule - *"Do to others what you would have them do to you."* (Matthew 7:12)
  - *"A man reaps what he sows."* (Galatians 6:7 NIV)
- **We should want to be compassionate and kind to others because *We want to become Stronger and Better.***
  - *"Your own soul is nourished when you are kind; it is destroyed when you are cruel."* (Proverbs 11:17 TLB)
- **We should want to be compassionate and kind to others because *We want to be Blessed by the Lord*.**
  - *"The King will say to those on the right, `Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you . . . For I was hungry, and you fed Me. I was thirsty, and you gave Me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited Me into your home. I was naked, and you gave Me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for Me. I was in prison, and you visited Me. . . . When you did it to one of the least of these My brothers and sisters, you were doing it to Me!'"* (Matthew 25:34-40)

Being Compassionate Requires:

<u>PLANNING</u> TO HELP HURTING PEOPLE

- *"He (David) summoned a man named Ziba, who had been one of Saul's servants. 'Are you Ziba?' the king asked. 'Yes sir, I am,' Ziba replied. The king then asked him, 'Is anyone still alive from Saul's family? If so, I want to show God's kindness to them.'"* (2 Samuel 9:-3)
- ***Who are the People around us who most need to experience compassion from us?***
- **People who most need compassion usually have experienced *Bad Stuff* in their lives.**
  - **We should want to show kindness even to those who perhaps wouldn't want to show kindness to us.**
- **People who most need compassion usually have experienced *Brokenness* in their lives.**
  - *"Ziba replied, 'Yes, one of Jonathan's sons is still alive, but he is crippled.'"* (2 Samuel 9:3)

    - **Lots of people have been "crippled" physically, emotionally, financially or relationally because of the bad choices they or others have made.**
    - The Lord - *"I have seen what they do, but I will heal them anyway! I will . . . comfort those who mourn."* (Isaiah 57:18)
- **People who most need compassion usually have experienced *Barrenness* in their lives.**
    - *"'Where is he?' the king asked. 'In Lo-debar,' Ziba told him, 'at the home of Makir son of Ammiel.'"* (2 Samuel 9:4)
    - **Lots of people are living sad and barren lives, and are looking to everyone and everything but the Lord to fill the emptiness in their lives.**
    - Jesus - *"My purpose is to give life in all its fullness."* (John 10:10)
- **We need to be more aware of the needs of people around us.**
    - *"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."* (Philippians 2:4 NIV)
    - **Almost everyone we meet needs kindness and compassion because almost everyone is hurting in some type of way.**

Being Compassionate Requires:

CARING FOR HURTING PEOPLE

- **Showing compassion to People involves *Meeting with Them*.**
    - *"David sent for Mephibosheth and brought him from Makir's home."* (2 Samuel 9:5)
    - **We need to make the initial attempts to connect with hurting people, rather than wait for them to come to us.**
- **Showing compassion to People involves *Affirming Them.***
    - *"When Mephibosheth came to David, he bowed low in great fear and said, 'I am your servant.' But David said, 'Don't be afraid! I've asked you to come so that I can be kind to you because of my vow to your father, Jonathan.'"* (2 Samuel 9:6-7)
    - **We need to be "building people up" rather than "tearing people down" with our words and actions.**
    - *"Kind words bring life, but cruel words crush your spirit."* (Proverbs 15:4 GNB)
    - *"Righteous people know the kind thing to say, but the wicked are always saying things that hurt."* (Proverbs 10:32 GNB)
    - **People who say cruel things to people aren't godly.**
- **Showing compassion to People involves *Helping Them.***

    - David - *“I will give you (Mephibosheth) all the land that once belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you may live here with me at the palace!"* (2 Samuel 9:7)
    - **When we focus our lives on meeting other people’s needs, the Lord will focus on meeting our needs.**
- **Showing compassion to People involves *Befriending Them*.**
    - *“From that time on, Mephibosheth ate regularly with David, as though he were one of his own sons.”* (2 Samuel 9:11)

- “Compassion is an amazing thing. It helps someone get a whole new perspective.” (Carrie Underwood in *Soul Surfer*)
- *“A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.”* (2 Timothy 2:24)
- **The story of how David treated Mephibosheth is a picture of how God treats those who receive Jesus as their Savior.**
- **The Lord has: 1) Reached out to us, 2) Reassured us, 3) Restored us, and 4) Rewarded us.**
- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message, and how am I going to respond to it?***