

After God's heart

2 Samuel 9

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In Ephesians 3:14-21, the apostle Paul prays to the Lord that believers would have the power of **grasp the love of Christ**. It's so wide and long and high and deep! In fact, he says it's greater than we can ever comprehend. But this apostle, who describes himself as less than the least, is revealing a God who does more than the best; in fact, God does **"more than we can ask or think"** (v. 20).

As we have been studying the Psalms, one thing is abundantly clear: the psalmists know how to worship and praise God. The flow of the Psalms moves from lament to praise. With almost half being honest lament, and slightly over half being robust praises; the Psalms shift more and more toward praise as it comes to the close. The last five are climactic, starting and closing with a repetitive, powerful doxology ... bubbling over with exultation to our God who is worthy.

With over half the Psalms being written by David, there are certainly episodes in his life that track with the Psalms and demonstrate his heart of praise and the circumstances that gave rise to or flowed from such exultation.

What a life he lived! It certainly wasn't boring. When people think of David, they think: (1) Goliath and (2) King. He killed the giant, and he became king. But the rise of the young shepherd (anointed by Samuel) was not quite so meteoric. When King Saul became madly jealous of David, David fled to safety losing everything. Think what he lost:

- He lost his position as commander of Saul's army.
- He lost his friends and family including his wife Michal and friend Jonathan.
- He lost his counselor Samuel.
- He lost his dignity, as he acted insane, drooling on his beard and crawling out of the city of Gath.
- He lost his home and lived in the Cave of Adullam and later at En Gedi by the Dead Sea.

For over a decade he was hammered into toughness by the desert, defending himself against mad King Saul, protecting the desert *pueblos*, and even protecting the life of his king. But the day came when he was crowned king. Finally. And as he solidified his crown and unified the nation of Israel, it's then that he has time to reflect and asks, **"Is there anyone left of the house of Saul that I can show kindness to?"** Second Samuel 9 tells what happened. Read it. It's amazing!

Ziba, the servant of King Saul, tells David that there is a descendant of Saul named Mephibosheth who is crippled and living in Lo Debar (“No Pasture”). He’s hiding for his life from the new king. David sends for him, and in an act of loving kindness restores his family fortune and brings him into the palace to eat at the king’s table the rest of his life.

Look at **Mephibosheth**. He’s a lot like us:

- He had fellowship with the king!
- He was crippled by a fall.
- The anointed king adopted him in his brokenness.
- Sitting at the table of the king, his handicap would be a constant reminder of David’s grace.

Look at **David**. He shows something of the heart astonished by God:

- Having tasted the loving kindness of God, he looked for someone to be kind to.
- He found the crippled grandson of his tormentor King Saul.
- He provided for Mephibosheth in a way that was beyond comprehension.

How does this apply to you? Where might we show up in the story of God? Do you see it? We have tasted the loving kindness of God in his incredible gift of resurrection life in Christ. Having tasted the loving kindness of God, we get to be like David and look for ways to show God’s grace. Perhaps we can find ways to show grace to those closest to us ... and those who will be shocked!

Let people see the power of Jesus’ love by the way you live grace.