

# SERMON NOTES

By Pastor John Paul Miller

## *David... A Man After God's Own Heart*

### Character Studies on the Life of David

#### 2 Samuel 9 - "Amazing Grace"

In a small cemetery of a parish churchyard in Olney, England stands a granite tombstone with the following inscription: "John Newton, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaver's in Africa, was by the rich mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy."

John Newton lived from 1725-1807

Born into the home of a captain of a ship, John Newton, at the young age of eleven left school and joined his father at sea. Eventually, after a long period of circumstances, he became captain of his own ship and became a slave trader traveling from England to Western Africa capturing slaves. Later, after being converted he became a preacher of the gospel. As he faithfully preached well into his eighties he was asked to retire, to which he replied, "I cannot! As long as I have breath I need to preach the gospel." Later, blind, partially deaf and with his memory failing he said, "my memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things; that I am a great sinner and that Christ is a great savior."

Perhaps the most representative expression of John Newton's life is his appealing hymn, which we know as, Amazing Grace.

The first stanza, which everyone knows says, "*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see.*"

The story we have come to in the life of David is a vivid illustration of God's Amazing Grace (vs. 1)

2 Samuel 9:1, "*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?*"

Out of all the outstanding events in David's life, I don't think you can find one that's more lovely than the kindness, or grace he showed to Mephibosheth the crippled son of Jonathan.

This Old Testament story illustrates one of the greatest truths in the Bible; that God saves us by Grace – (Eph 2:8,9)

Three reasons God's Grace is amazing:

I. God's grace seeks us (2 Samuel 9:1-6)

*2 Samuel 9:1-6, " 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? 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. 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. 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. Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar. 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!"*

Spiritual truth pictured here:

1. Mephibosheth – pictures the lost sinner

- a) He once enjoyed fellowship with his father
- b) He was born into a rejected family
- c) He experienced a fall and could not walk
- d) He was missing the best living in a barren land; Lo-debar (east of the River Jordan) – no pasture

Alan Redpath said we see in Mephibosheth "the condition which grace meets." He used three words – 'away', 'afraid', 'antagonism'

(Why?)

Alan Redpath - Nothing but grace could meet a condition like that, for the fact of the matter is that our assumptions concerning God, which have kept us away from Him, are simply the lie of the devil. God is not against us. He has shown His love toward us beyond all doubt "in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). "If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:31-32).

So don't listen to Satan's lies – God is for us!

## 2. David – He pictures the grace and love of God

### a) David remembered his promise – so does God (Gen 3:15)

*Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."*

### b) David made the first move

### c) David acted for Jonathan's sake (vs. 1)

*Ephesians 4:32, "...even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*

### d) David called him personally (vs. 5-6)

God sent the Holy Spirit

David at this time is so much like God.

The seeker is not the sinner – Rom. 3:11

The seeker is the Savior – Jesus said that He came to seek and to save...

He's seeking you right now – not to kill you but to show you kindness.

## II. God's grace saves us (2 Samuel 9:7-8)

*2 Samuel 9:7-8, "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. And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?"*

Notice what David did for Mephibosheth (vs. 7)

1. He spoke peace to him – fear not
2. He showed him kindness for Jonathan's sake
3. He restored what he lost
4. He adopted him into his family – acceptance

Notice how Mephibosheth responds (vs. 8)

## Abasement

This is what God's Amazing Grace does for us (vs. 8)

Points on God's Saving Grace:

1. Its not progressive
2. Its not related to human merit
3. It is eternal
4. It is the work of God alone

### III. God's grace satisfies us (2 Samuel 9:9-13)

*2 Samuel 9:9-13, " 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. 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 alway at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. Then 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. And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Micha. And all that dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants unto Mephibosheth. So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet."*

a) He shall eat at my table as one of the King's son's (vs. 11, 13)

b) Away from God

Afraid of God

Antagonism towards God

Then the kindness of God towards us because of Jesus:

- acceptance by God
- abasement before God
- abundance – blessed by God

*Ephesians 1:3, " Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:"*

Like what?

From the Father

1. Chosen
2. Adoption

### 3. Accepted in Christ

#### From the Son

1. Redemption
2. Forgiveness
3. An Inheritance

#### From the Spirit

1. Sealed
2. Earnest

For how long? – until...

Why? – To the praise of the glory of His grace.

He brings us to His banqueting table

Application: Like Mephibosheth we have experienced grace in a barren place.

All this to the praise of the glory of His grace.

Your heart should respond with praise!

Thank you Father:

- for seeking me when I wasn't looking
- for saving me when I wasn't worthy
- for satisfying me when I was empty

God's grace is amazing!

2 Samuel 9:1, *"Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"*