

Rescued From the Desert

Text : **II Samuel 9: 1-13 , I Samuel 20: 12-17**

- A. Multiple choice question : Ask self, “If I were to die this very minute do you know for certain that you would go to be with God eternally :**
1. “Because of my sins, I would be condemned in the judgment.”
 2. “I hope I will be able to go to Heave, **but** no one can know for sure.”
 3. “I’ve been a good Christian, I think I will.”
 4. “Absolutely, **I will** live eternally with God.”
- B. Wait a minute, no one can know for sure he is saved ! Can he ?**
1. **Rom. 3: 10** – As it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one;"
 - 3: 23** – there is no distinction; **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
 2. One can't do extra good works to make up for his sins b/c the works are of no value
 - Isa. 64: 6** – For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
 3. One has the responsibility to do ALL things (everything) God has commanded.
 - a. **Luke 17: 10** – So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.'"
 - b. Thus, there is no such thing as extra good works.
- C. God creates men perfect, but they all stray away like Eve.**
1. **Eccl. 7: 29** – Behold, I have found only this, that God made men upright, but they have sought out many devices."
 2. God made us perfect and He required that we stay that way.
 - a. **Gen. 1: 27** ... We were made in the very image of God Himself.
 - b. **Matt. 5: 48** – Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
- D. ALL men are born subject to God's law.**
1. There is one punishment for violation ... **If you violate (i.e. sin) you die.**
 2. This is the same law that condemned Eve and then Adam,

Gen. 2: 16 – The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; **17** but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

3. This is called the “*law of sin and death.*”

Rom. 8: 1 – Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

S#9.

E. Though one can never merit salvation he can have salvation and know it.

1. **I John 5: 13** – These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. **S#10.**

2. Salvation is given as a gift,

Rom. 6: 23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. The gift of salvation is given by GRACE,

Eph. 2: 8-10 – For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. **S#11.**

- a. **NOTICE** ... One is not saved BY works, but rather FOR works.
- b. Not saved BY faith, but saved THROUGH faith. *Faith is the conduit.*
- c. One is saved BY grace.

I. What is grace ?

S#12.

A. There are many common definitions.

S#13.

1. Smooth flowing movement of a figure skater
2. A short prayer before a meal.
3. God’s gift or favor.

B. The Greek word translated “grace” is “*charis.*”

S#14.

1. It is also translated as : **charis**; blessing, concession, credit, favor, gratitude, etc.
2. Strong’s 5485 is defined as :
 - a. that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness:
 - b. good will, loving-kindness, favour

C. Webster defines “grace” as :

1. unmerited divine assistance given to humans for their regeneration or sanctification
2. a virtue coming from God

D. By many, it is most often referred by the acrostic:**S#15.**

God's **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense

II. Grace is eloquently defined by God in the character of David.**S#16.****A. David came to Saul's house as a teenager.**

1. David was anointed to be the next king of Israel and indwelt by God's Spirit..
2. The Spirit of God left Saul and was replaced by an evil spirit.
3. David was hired to play the harp to sooth Saul when he was vexed by the evil spirit.

B. David was selected by God because of his heart.

1. **I Sam. 16: 7** – But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him ; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." **S#17.**
2. Before He anointed a new king, God told Saul that he was being replaced.
I Sam. 13: 14 – But now your kingdom shall not endure. The Lord has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you." **S#18.**
3. **I Sam. 17: 15** ... At first David was going back a forth between Saul and his father.

C. After David defeated the giant Goliath, he came to stay with Saul permanently.

1. **I Sam. 16: 21** ... Saul favored David highly.
2. **I Sam. 18** ... David became a warrior for Saul
3. David and Jonathan were both young and became best friends.
4. But David was so successful as a warrior that Saul became jealous.
5. Saul spent 20 years trying to kill David.

D. David made a covenant with Jonathan.

1. Jonathan agreed to help David escape from Saul.
2. David agreed to never harm Jonathan's family.
3. David runs from Saul for more than 20 years.
4. David comes to power and must fight enemies for many year.
5. When his kingdom is finally secure, he seeks for a way to uphold his covenant.

III. Our text is the story of how David bestowed grace on a cripple.**S#19.****A. Both Saul and Jonathan fell in the same battle against the Philistines.**

1. **I Sam. 2: 4** ... David did not kill Saul when he had the opportunity.
2. David mourned the death of Saul and Jonathan.

B. After their deaths David began to establish his claim to the thrown of Israel.

1. David became king over Judah and Ish-bosheth became king over Israel.
2. Over time the head of the army of Israel defected and David became king of all.

C. While setting affairs in order, David remembers his covenant with Jonathan.

1. David had kept his covenant in that he did not purge the family of Jonathan.
2. Thus, David was basically looking for a way to express his love for Jonathan

a. **Prov. 18: 24** – A man of too many friends comes to ruin,
But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. **S#20.**

b. **I Sam. 18: 1** – Now it came about when he had finished speaking to Saul,
that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David,
and Jonathan loved him as himself. (**Gen. 44: 30** .. Jacob to Ben)

C. When David enquired about the family of Saul, his staff found a servant of his.

1. This servant was named Ziba.
2. Being called before the king who replaced his master, Ziba would have been afraid that he would be executed.
3. When Ziba told David about Mephibosheth he would have assumed that David would kill him to extinguish any claim to his thrown.

D. Ziba describes Mephibosheth as not worth killing.

1. He's a cripple so he would never be accepted as any kind of leader, let alone king.
2. He can't even take care of himself, he's living as a dependent in Machir's house.
3. He's in living off in the boondocks and a place called Lo-debar (no pasture)
4. Even his name is unworthy Mephibosheth means "*from the mouth of shame*."

E. Imagine what Mephibosheth was thinking on the journey to Jerusalem.

1. By this time Mephibosheth was about 30 yrs. old and had lived in hiding.
2. "Yeah, he says he will bless me, but I'm the last of Saul's line."
3. He'd have been trying to think of arguments to convince David not to kill him.

F. Mephibosheth totally humbled himself before David and received grace.

1. **II Sam. 9:6** – Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and prostrated himself. And David said, "Mephibosheth." And he said, "Here is your servant!" **S#20.**
2. When David told him the good he had planned for him Mephibosheth responded, **II Sam. 9:8** – Again he prostrated himself and said, "What is your servant, a dead dog like me?" **S#21.**
3. He should have received death but instead received an abundant blessing.
 - a. He received all the inheritance he would have received if his father had not died in battle.
 - b. Eating at the king's table ... **adopted** into the king's family.
 - c. Security and honor for the rest of his life.

IV. In Christ we receive all the blessings of God at Christ's expense.**S#22.****A. We were living way off in Lo-debar. ... No pasture ... No future****B. Our name was Mephibosheth. ... *from the mouth of shame***

1. Without Christ were unable to stand.
2. We lived in fear of being discovered by the Judge of All the Earth.

C. Jesus provided an alternative ... He offered GRACE to those who would trust

Rom. 5:6 – For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the **S#23.** ungodly. **7** For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. **8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for **S#24.** us. **9** Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. **10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. **11** And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

D. This is GRACE and it can be yours.**S#25.**

1. In Christ one is given eternal security ... *at the Kings table.*
2. Without Christ one's future is eternity in Lo-debar.

INVITATION : Where will you be in 100 yrs ... feasting w/ king **S#26.**
or exiled to Lo-debar

S#27. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**II Samuel 9: 1-13**

1 Then David said, "Is there yet anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" **2** Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David; and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "I am your servant." **3** The king said, "Is there not yet anyone of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan who is crippled in both feet." **4** So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel in Lo-debar." **5** Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar. **6** Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and prostrated himself. And David said, "Mephibosheth." And he said, "Here is your servant!" **7** David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul; and you shall eat at my table regularly." **8** Again he prostrated himself and said, "What is your servant, that you should regard a dead dog like me?"

9 Then the king called Saul's servant Ziba and said to him, "All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson. **10** "You and your sons and your servants shall cultivate the land for him, and you shall bring in the produce so that your master's grandson may have food; nevertheless Mephibosheth your master's grandson shall eat at my table regularly." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. **11** Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king commands his servant so your servant will do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table as one of the king's sons. **12** Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Mica. And all who lived in the house of Ziba were servants to Mephibosheth. **13** So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate at the king's table regularly. Now he was lame in both feet.

I Samuel 20: 12-17

12 Then Jonathan said to David, "The Lord, the God of Israel, be witness! When I have sounded out my father about this time tomorrow, or the third day, behold, if there is good feeling toward David, shall I not then send to you and make it known to you? **13** "If it please my father to do you harm, may the Lord do so to Jonathan and more also, if I do not make it known to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. And may the Lord be with you as He has been with my father. **14** "If I am still alive, will you not show me the lovingkindness of the Lord, that I may not die? **15** "You shall not cut off your lovingkindness from my house forever, not even when the Lord cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth." **16** So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the Lord require it at the hands of David's enemies." **17** Jonathan made David vow again because of his love for him, because he loved him as he loved his own life.