

GOD'S MATCHLESS GRACE - by Rev. Fubara Ibama

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! 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? 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. (2Samuel 9:3-9)

There are several nuggets of truth we can glean from this passage of scripture but I will concentrate on the Grace of God. The main characters we will focus our discussion on are: David, the king and Mephibosheth, the grandson of Saul, the son of Jonathan, David's friend. Saul made several futile attempts to prematurely end the life of David because of jealousy and also to prevent David from ascending the throne that was rightly his. Eventually, David became king after Saul's death. The Bible says, ***"For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry."*** (Hab. 2:3) It is heart warming to know that whatever the Lord has for you, will come to you at the right time. We should not get discouraged when God's word to us is delayed in its fulfillment. We can take courage in the fact that His Word will always come to pass. In 2Corinthians 2:20, it is written, ***"All the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."***

David, the king could have forgotten all about the household of Saul who did everything in his power to assassinate him. But in his wealth and power, he remembered the house of Saul. ***"And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him?"*** In spite of his terrible experience with Saul, David was not going to reward evil for evil. He wanted to demonstrate the kindness of God to the house of Saul. I believe two things are responsible for David's action. 1.) He was a man after God's heart, a man of noble character. 2.) David took seriously his friendship with Jonathan. Even though Jonathan was dead and gone, he respected that friendship and the covenant they made. I am intrigued that David said he wanted to show the "kindness of God". What is the kindness of God? ***"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*** (Rom. 5:8) God did not wait for us to clean up our act before He could save us. No! It was while we were still offending Him, He sent His Son to die for us. Again in Ephesians 2:8, the Bible says,

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“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

David sent for Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, lame in both feet, from Lodebar where he was hiding. Lodebar was a city east of the Jordan River. A city that was characterized by its barrenness, wastelands and devastation. It was a city in the midst of the wilderness. Under normal circumstances, nobody would want to live in such a dry place. ***“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.”*** David could have sent him to the servants' quarters or any other part of his vast empire but David chose to treat Mephibosheth as royalty – eating with David on the same table. God dug us out of the horrible pit, out of the miry clay and planted our feet upon the Rock. God does not refer to us as dirty pigs. He does not even remind us of our sinful past. He treats us as royalty. He said, ***“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.” (1Peter 2:9-10)*** We now have a joint-seating with Christ in the heavenly places. Wow! We get all these benefits when we come to God in humility, repent of our sins and receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior. You may be having a wilderness experience right now but God will remember you and bring you out to His banqueting table. Only Him has the ability to turn your wilderness into water springs. He will turn your circumstance around and give you a testimony as you look to Him for help.

Apart from eating at the king's table, Mephibosheth's inheritance which was lost was fully restored to him. He also got back his dignity. Restoration is part of the redemptive package for us. God will restore everything the enemy stole from you – health, peace, prosperity, dignity, relationships, your ministry, etc.

Although, Mephibosheth was lame in both feet, those lame feet could not be seen as long as he sat at the king's table. Every proper dining table has a table cloth. His lame feet were covered by the king's provision. When one is lame in his feet, he has obvious limitations especially in those days when there were no wheel chairs and other modern gadgets that could aid mobility. I believe we all have one form of disability or the other. Before you refute this statement, let us think about character flaws and imperfections in our lives. If we do not have imperfections, we would all look exactly like Jesus Christ when He walked this earth as a man. But thank God for the grace of God. God's grace covers those lame feet of ours. God amplifies our strengths not our weaknesses. He does not wait for us to be perfect before using us. He uses us to do great things even in our imperfections. God will change your location, elevate you and do for you what you can never do for yourself. I remember the statement about Elijah in the book of James. ***“Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it***

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might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.” (James 5:17-18)

In conclusion, dear friends, let us extol the GRACE of God in our lives. We really have nothing to boast about. We are nothing without Him. It is God's grace that has enabled us to do whatever we have done for the Kingdom. It is grace that has helped us accomplish whatever we have accomplished. God did not judge us according to our misdeeds and character flaws but has extended His grace and mercy to cover us. It is pertinent to remember that whatever blessing we receive from the Lord is because of Jesus and not because of us. From the very moment we make Jesus the Lord of our lives, God begins to see us through Jesus. In Romans 8:32, the Bible says, ***“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?”*** Oh, the matchless grace of God!