



Growth Group Questions
February 4, 2024
“Welcome to the Table”

Context:

The story of David and Mephibosheth actually begins with the friendship of David and Jonathan. Jonathan was the son of Saul and David and Jonathan were the closest of friends, even though Saul spent much of his life seeking to kill David because he knew that David would be the next king.

In 1 Samuel 20:14-15 we read these words that Jonathan spoke to David. *“But show me unfailing kindness like the Lord’s kindness as long as I live, so that I may not be killed, 15 and do not ever cut off your kindness from my family—not even when the Lord has cut off every one of David’s enemies from the face of the earth.”* In verses 16-17 we read, *“So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May the Lord call David’s enemies to account.” And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.*

This is the background of our text as David remembers the covenant that he and Jonathan had made. Saul and Jonathan are now both dead, having been killed in the battle with the Philistines. David is ruling as king and his actions show us an extreme action of covenant faithfulness. He will be a different kind of king.

Mephibosheth, who had been crippled at a young age, was living in Lo-Debar, which literally means “no pasture.” So while David could write a psalm about “lying down in green pastures,” Mephibosheth was basically living a life of exile where there were no pastures. As he is called into the presence of David, he bows down. More than likely, he does not expect to be alive after he is done talking with David.

In a great act of mercy, David restores Mephibosheth. He gives him the land that belonged to Saul, a perpetual seat at the king’s table, as well as servants to take care of the land he had just been given. In David we see a foreshadowing (typology) of a king (Jesus) who will show mercy to others by inviting them to join him at his table.



Scripture:

2 Samuel 9:1-11

9 David asked, “Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?”² Now there was a servant of Saul’s household named Ziba. They summoned him to appear before David, and the king said to him, “Are you Ziba?” “At your service,” he replied. **3** The king asked, “Is there no one still alive from the house of Saul to whom I can show God’s kindness?” Ziba answered the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan; he is lame in both feet.” **4** “Where is he?” the king asked. Ziba answered, “He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar.” **5** So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel. **6** When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor. David said, “Mephibosheth!” “At your service,” he replied. **7** “Don’t be afraid,” David said to him, “for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table.” **8** Mephibosheth bowed down and said, “What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?” **9** Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul’s steward, and said to him, “I have given your master’s grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. **10** You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master’s grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table.” (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.) **11** Then Ziba said to the king, “Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do.” So Mephibosheth ate at David’s^[a] table like one of the king’s sons.

Psalm 23:5-6

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 “The days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.
32 It will not be like the covenant
I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
though I was a husband to^[a] them,^[b]”
declares the LORD.
33 “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel
after that time,” declares the LORD.
“I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.



³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,'
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,"
declares the LORD.
"For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more."

Revelation 19:5-9

⁵ Then a voice came from the throne, saying:

"Praise our God,
all you his servants,
you who fear him,
both great and small!"

⁶ Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad
and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready.

⁸ Fine linen, bright and clean,
was given her to wear."

⁹ Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

Mark 14:17-20

¹⁷ When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. ¹⁸ While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me." ¹⁹ They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely you don't mean me?" ²⁰ "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me.



Questions:

1. In 2 Samuel 9:1-11, we read of King David's kindness to Mephibosheth. How does David's kindness to Mephibosheth mirror God's kindness to us?
2. What can we learn from the story of David and Mephibosheth about how we should treat others?
3. Carefully read Psalm 23:5-6, and then rewrite these verses in your own words, getting as close to the intended meaning as possible.
4. What can we learn from Psalm 23:5-6 about God's hospitality to us and our hospitality to others?
5. Pastor Paul touched on three different tables in this week's sermon. What does the image of a table signify to you?
6. Even though the three tables Pastor Paul talked about are different, they have similarities. What are these similarities and what do they tell us about God's love for us?
7. Pastor Paul said that our God is a God who covenants. What does that mean to you?
8. What do you see as the significance of Judas' presence at the table in Mark 14:17-20? What can we learn from this?

