

**Recap of 1/11/26 message by Pastor Steve Plank
("God Our Help") 2 Samuel 8:1-9:13**

In these chapters we see God continuing to build David's house and we see David's kindness to Jonathan's son, Mephiboseth. Chapter 8 chronicles the fulfillment God's prophecy regarding David, revealed to us by Abner in 2 Sa 3:18. By David's hand, God deliver's Israel from all their enemies, north, south, east, and west. While David is the one taking the action, scripture is clear that it is God who provides the victory. So, it is with our Christian lives. Each of us is called to abide in Christ, i.e. live in obedience to God's Word, while realizing that victory comes from God. As Paul puts it in Philippians 2:12-13, we work out our salvation as God works in us for His good ends. We are not to fret about results. Our job is to follow him. He produces the results He desires.

Justice and righteousness are the fruit of God's people living in obedience. Part of the justice and righteousness David administered to his people is seen in his restoring Saul's lands to Mephibosheth (2 Sa 9). Common practice for kings was to seek out family that had any claim to the throne and kill them (see Judges 9 and 1 Chronicles 21 for just two of many scriptural examples). Instead, David, recognizing his success as a gift from God, passes on the blessing to Jonathan's son. There are many parallels to our Christian life in this account.

First, Mephibosheth is blessed, not due to anything in himself, but for Jonathan's sake. We are blessed not due to anything in ourselves, but for Jesus' sake (2 Co 5:21).

Second, Mephibosheth gets his provision from the king's table. We get our provision from the one true King (Mt 6:25-34, Jas 1:17).

Third, Mephibosheth sits at the king's table as one of the king's sons. As believers, we are adopted sons and daughters of God (Ro 8:14-17, Ga 4:3-7).

Fourth, Mephibosheth displays humility and gratitude. We are commanded to be humble (Php 2) and be thankful in, and for, all things (1 Th 5:16-18, Eph 5:17-20).

Finally, because Mephibosheth was lame in both feet, he could not repay David. David's act was completely selfless. We are called to do the same. Helping those who can repay us is fine, but scripture tells us that even unbelievers do that. We are called to a higher standard. We are told helping those who can't repay is true righteousness that will be rewarded in heaven (Lk 14:12-14, Lk 6:32-36).