

## Goodness Gracious

If you are a guest...I am really glad you are here... All of us are here for one purpose... To grow in our trust that Jesus is who He says He is... And He will do what He has promised to do. It really is that simple. Whether you are just trying to discover or understand Jesus Or whether you have been following Him for years.. Each week we all gather here...to grow in our faith... That God is who He says He is and He will do what He promised to do.

If you are new, let me tell you about Spiritual Fruit Jesus promised those who trust in Him... That they would receive the Holy Spirit... And the Holy Spirit would manifest in their lives.....certain changes That Paul called Spiritual Fruit The Evidence of a life transformed by Jesus Is that His followers would produce in their lives.... Supernatural changes....

**Galatians 5:22-24 (ESV) 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.**

We have said that we want more of these things in our lives Jesus taught us that He grows fruit in us if we abide in Him... But abide is not just spending time with Him It is surrendering your plans for His Desiring what He wants more than what you want. Getting His perspective....and then surrendering to it.

A critical point that I want to make sure we all remember... You can't grow Spiritual fruit on your own.... You can will yourself to be more loving...joyful...peaceful You can make some effort but it will always fall short... That is why you have not been able to do it yet.

Let me help state this another way. If you don't surrender to Jesus as your Savior, you will never experience these fruits. You may try to drum them up on your own, but they will always fall short of what God planned for you. These are God's gifts to those who trust Jesus.

These are Spiritual Fruit They are grown only by the Holy Spirit of God Our lives, if surrendered, become the garden....the soil.... That God can use to manifest himself through us. The only way we can produce true...

Love...joy...peace...patience...kindness..etc Is to walk in step with Holy Spirit

But the Holy Spirit must be experienced. The Holy Spirit makes no sense to anyone until they experience His presence in their lives. People think they know what love is....until they experience God's love. They think they know what peace is until they experience peace with God and the Peace of God.

Jesus promised all of those who trust in Him as their Savior that they would receive the Holy Spirit and that is guaranteed. But spiritual fruit....the blessings of having the Spirit of God in you is conditional. Many Christians have lived their entire reborn lives and never truly experienced Spiritual Fruit. The Relationship and Salvation with Jesus is guaranteed....the fruit of that relationship is not.

Can you imagine living your entire reborn life and never experiencing what the Holy Spirit can produce in you? Jesus told his followers that Having the Holy Spirit in us is better than having Him stay on earth with us.

The condition that unlocks the fruit of our RELATIONSHIP with Jesus....is actually having a relationship with Jesus.....abiding with Him, spending time with Him, surrendering our control to His....Actually letting Him be both our Savior (Faith) and our Lord (relationship)

So this week...we explore spiritual fruit a bit more. We have been through love... I want to talk about Goodness and Kindness The fruit of the Spirit is goodness and kindness...

As the Holy Spirit Grows in our life....our hearts become filled with God's goodness And it overflows to others as supernatural kindness... Kindness that is undeserved... Kindness with no strings attached...

I want to take us back...to a story in the OT... A story that shows how God's kindness flows out of those with His Spirit Let me take you back to about 1000 before God...Jesus...came to earth

Now before we start this history lesson, I want you to know that there are so many parallels between King David's story and the story of the Messiah King Jesus that it is incredible.

Several hundred years before our story... God led the Jewish Nation from Egypt to the Promised Land He wanted the Jewish nation to be different from all other earthly nations God directed a prophet named Samuel to appoint his children as judges over the Nation.

But the people wanted a King like all the other nations... God reminded them that He was their king....but they wanted an earthly king

Samuel the prophet warned them about what would happen if they had a king basically saying...You are God's people....You already have a King....God is your King....No earthly King can take His place....Earthly Kings will never care for you as God does....Any human that you choose for your king will enslave you. He will take all your good stuff for himself. He will operate in the flesh...serving himself at your expense. It will not go well for you....if you reject me as King and choose a man to be king

Samuel the prophet even tells them...When this goes bad.. You will cry out to God.. But He will not respond. Where have we seen this before?

This is essentially the same thing Adam and Eve did. God we don't want you as our king...We want our own King. In fact, we will be our own King. Sometimes God gives us what we want....to show us what we really need.

But the people rejected God and wanted their own King.. The people wanted a man named Saul.... He was tall...strong...dark...and handsome.... He looked like a King... He looked good on the outside...

Saul is made King...He looked the part on the outside But he was essentially completely psycho. He was a horrible King... But he had a pretty impressive son name Jonathan

It would seem to most that Jonathan would be next in line to be King. He was after all...the King's Son He was brave and successful in battle.... Seemed to be a natural born leader. Jonathan was next in line...But then God began to shape the destiny of His people.

1 Samuel 16:1 (ESV) David Anointed King 16 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."

Samuel brings in all of Jesse's son's....and the oldest looks like a king...so do all the others...but...

1 Samuel 16:7 (ESV) 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

After going through all the sons, they finally send for the youngest..

1 Samuel 16:12-13 (ESV) 12 And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.

This is very important....From that Day forward..... The Spirit of the Lord...The Holy Spirit rushed upon David....from that day forward

In the OT the Holy Spirit descended upon someone usually for a specific purpose or action But in this case the Spirit rushed upon him and stayed....David lived most of his life...empowered by the Holy Spirit... Study his life and you will see the fruit of that Spirit manifested in Him

Look at the next verse... 1 Samuel 16:14 (ESV) 14 Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him.

Did you notice where the harmful spirit came from?.... That is a whole nuther sermon...

Now David has been anointed...set apart to one day be King...but he is still a young boy. Saul remains King but without the Holy Spirit to Guide Him.

This too parallels Adam and Eve. Humans trying to be Kings without God's Help. The Holy Spirit departed...The true King waiting for the fullness of time to claim His rightful position. David was anointed King just as the Messiah was promised to be King....all in God's David would be a King empowered by the Holy Spirit...foreshadowing Jesus who is the Holy Spirit returning to bring Him to all of us.

Then Saul is afraid the fight the Philistines.... So David shows up at age 12 and crazy Saul is more than eager to give David his Armor and send him out to battle. Have you ever wondered why Saul so eagerly served up David to Goliath?

How did David have enough faith to trust that God would kill Goliath? We will talk about the spiritual fruit of Faithfulness in a few weeks. David had supernatural faith that was not of Him. In fact, if you study David's life, you can find every fruit of the Spirit manifested in him.

In the meantime...Crazy Saul spends his days trying to Kill David.

But think about Jonathan... Imagine Jonathan during all of this... He seemed to be the next in line for the throne His Dad is crazy.... David seems to be the rising star... How would you expect Jonathan to feel? How your you feel? Jonathan had every reason to be jealous... We would expect him to hate David. When someone takes something that seems to be yours...it usually causes conflict.

We would expect him to hate David. When someone takes something that seems to be yours...it usually causes conflict. It would seem that they should be rivals... But God developed a bond between these two men...

1 Samuel 18:1-3 (ESV) 18 As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. 2 And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. 3 Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul.

Jonathan may have loved David.... But Saul has an evil spirit... And evil spirits always wanted to destroy God's anointed ones. Jonathan and David both realize that Saul is serious... He is really trying to kill David.

Now Jonathan had a problem. He knew that it would be customary.... If David was to become King....David would execute any heirs or threats to the throne. Usually, the entire dynasty and all of their offspring would be executed. It was expected that if David became King, his first action would be to kill Saul and Jonathan.

It is kind of like the Mob today...eliminate any chance of revolt. No second string quarterback for the fans to turn to.. Jonathan is well aware of this custom... They just killed...everyone associated with the old dynasty. Jonathan really trusted David and he wanted a promise of KINDNESS.

1 Samuel 20:13-15 (NIV) May the LORD be with you as he has been with my father. 14 But show me unfailing kindness like that of the LORD 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."

Essentially saying..."We are good right?" Promise me you will not kill me.... But also promise me you will be kind to my family David does become King.... And we will see...that not only has the Holy Spirit grown in him supernatural faithfulness But also the Holy Spirit has grown in him a heart full of goodness..... That pours out onto others as kindness...

Kindness and Goodness...similar right? In the first century...Goodness referred to a morally upright person

Goodness in man is not a mere passive quality, but the deliberate preference of right to wrong, the firm and persistent resistance of all moral evil, and the choosing and following of all moral good.

Someone who can control their passions Goodness is a condition of the heart... We say it a lot...They have a good heart...

Supernatural goodness means morally solid... Unwavering in godly principles.... In fact goodness is a euphemism for God.

Perhaps you have heard.... "Thank goodness" "Goodness knows" "Goodness gracious" "Honest to goodness" "My Goodness"

Years ago many were concerned about using God's name inappropriately Rather than saying God...they said Goodness. Goodness represented for them... The essence of God.

The best description of goodness is this....God being quoted.. Acts 13:22-23 (ESV) 22 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.'

Goodness is a man chasing after God's heart Because that is what the Holy Spirit grows in us. So remember, Goodness is a heart that is passionately chasing after God.....but what about Kindness?

Kindness on the other hand... Seem to be the actions that come from a good heart.. If our hearts are full of supernatural goodness...our actions overflowing with kindness

So for our purposes.... Goodness is who you are on the inside. Kindness is the outward expression of that inner goodness. They are linked together. If you have goodness in your heart we will see kindness in your actions. As James would say....If your heart is passionately chasing Jesus....your actions will follow.

Mark Twain once said, "Kindness is a language that deaf people can hear and that blind people can see."

In fact...in the First Century...Christians and Kindness were almost interchangeable. Greek: chrestos = KIND Greek: christos = CHRIST In the first century, the believers were so KIND that many people did not know whether their title was "follower of Christ," or "follower of kindness."

I wonder today...if when people think of Christians... They could insert kindness without missing a beat? Actions speak louder than words So back to our story...

Saul and Jonathan are killed in battle David is crowned king...fast forward quite a few years... David is well established as King... He has power and influence... He begins to remember the promise...the covenant...that he made with Jonathan.

2 Samuel 9:1 (ESV) 9 And David said, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" As David promised, he did not kill Jonathan or Jonathan's family.

2 Samuel 9:1-3 (ESV) 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 And the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?" Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet."

The young man is named Mephibosheth He is Jonathan's son...He is still alive. We know from Scripture that on the day Saul and Jonathan were killed... Mephibosheth had to flee the palace... During that escape he had a fall his ankles were fractured... He was disabled for life..

His is crippled in his feet.... Ziba's response carries with it a bit of sarcasm... Kind of condescending... He is not going to be a threat to you...you're good...no problem... He is crippled so you don't have to worry about him.

2 Samuel 9:4-5 (ESV) 4 The king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar." 5 Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar.

Now Lo-Debar....Lo means NO and Debar means pasture. In other words it was a desolate..forsaken area A wasteland.. This disabled man is spending his days...in a nowhere place.

He too knows the custom....He likely doesn't know the promise David made to his father He is likely trying to live a stealth life...in a nowhere place...fearing the day when.....the Kind remembers him and wants to kill him.

Then one day his fears come true. The King...has found him in the desolate wasteland...hiding....and has sent for him. Please don't miss the parallels between his situation and ours. The King has found us hiding and wants to see us....Death is our expectation.

Imagine his thoughts on that journey I have been trying to hide...but now I am discovered. I am broken..crippled...and powerless before the King I am probably going to die...because I was born into a different kingdom

But you say...wait a minute...David said he was going to pour out kindness.... We don't know if the messenger relayed that message... And Kings were known for their lying...

Do you remember Herod? Let me know where the child is so I can worship Him too...

The King inviting you to the palace.... Was likely much like being invited to the Gambino Mansion And the mob boss tells you the plastic on the floor.... Around only your seat... Is to protect the carpet from spaghetti sauce.. Not everyone can be trusted...

But Mephibosheth is powerless...The King pursued and found Him...

2 Samuel 9:6 (ESV) 6 And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, "Mephibosheth!" And he answered, "Behold, I am your servant."

Now you have to understand...Mephibosheth is likely scared to death. He is a crippled man....weak....dependent...

He is standing before a Warrior... David killed a bear.... a lion...and Goliath before the age of 12 David fought and led armies He is totally powerful...completely able to do whatever he desire. You miss what happens here if you fail to understand Mephibosheth's absolute terror. He must have been shaking...it was obvious he was scared...look at David's next words

2 Samuel 9:7-8 (ESV) 7 And David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always." 8 And he paid homage and said, "What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?"

Note a few key points.... He is being shown kindness not because of what he has done... But because of what someone else...who died...has done. David's love for Jonathan...is poured out as kindness to his family

Note that what had been taken from him The land of Saul is given back to him And his place at the King's Table.... Is restored... David essentially adopts him...brings Mephibosheth into David's family Note the word always.... This is a lifelong commitment

Note Mephibosheth's response... He knows he is unworthy.... A dead dog such as I...

Can you imagine what it must feel like.... To know you deserved to die... To know you are totally unworthy To be helpless and totally at the mercy of the King... And then because of what someone else has done for you... Long before you were ever born... You are adopted into the King's Family.... And your place at the King's table is secured....always... Imagine that...we will come back to that later.

Imagine that Dinner Scene... Mephibosheth carries in or hobbles in and sits down.. Crippled...overlooked...Mephibosheth... At the table with.... David's sons...

Amnon...the clever one Absalom tall...handsome..strong self assured. Solomon the smart one...who has great knowledge Joab one of David's soldiers Tamar....David's beautiful daughter

The weakest of all...sharing the table... With the beautiful...the powerful... The brilliant ones..

The King's kindness has been poured out on him He humbly knows he doesn't deserve to be there... Imagine Mephibosheth's prayers of thanks before each meal. He sits at a table covered in grace.

David was empowered with the Holy Spirit There was a goodness that grew in Him.... Supernatural fruit that filled his heart...

David did not have to help Mephibosheth And truthfully David in and of himself probably wouldn't But the Holy Spirit of God...working through David... showed goodness and kindness...where David's ended.



David's heart was chasing God's No one knew about the covenant David made with Jonathan David was kind when no one was watching The Spirit of God was upon David.. It filled him with goodness. It poured out of him as kindness So what can we learn from this story about bearing good fruit?

When I think of the supernatural fruit of Goodness and Kindness... If you want to see God's Goodness overflowing to others in kindness Think about Mother Teresa. She spent her life pouring out the supernatural fruit of Kindness

**Mother Teresa...** Embodied and became the icon for God's Goodness and Kindness. Born in Macedonia in 1910 at the age of 40 She started the Missionaries of charity... Its mission? To care for the hungry...the naked...the homeless. the crippled, the blind, the lepers....all those who feel unwanted, unloved and uncared for People that have become a burden to the society and are shunned by everyone.

In 1950 they started with 13 people in Calcutta.. Mother Teresa won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979

She refused the conventional ceremonial banquet given to laureates, and asked that the \$192,000 funds be given to the poor in India,[79] stating that earthly rewards were important only if they helped her help the world's needy.

She wrote many letters in her life...but demanded that they be destroyed She didn't want people talking about her....instead of Jesus.

Her kindness and Goodness was so juicy that she transcended cultures and generations

Mother Teresa said "By blood, I am Albanian. By citizenship, an Indian. By faith, I am a Catholic nun. As to my calling, I belong to the world. As to my heart, I belong entirely to the Heart of Jesus."

"Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile." Mother Theresa

By her death in 1997 the small group of 13 had grown... More than 4000 sisters running orphanages...AIDS hospice and charity centers worldwide. They cared for the refugees..the blind..the disabled...aged...alcoholics...the poor...the homeless... Victims of floods..epidemics....and famine.

She poured out kindness on those who could offer nothing in return. She spent so much time with Jesus.... And walking step by step in the Spirit... That God grew her heart full of goodness... and it overflowed to the least of these.

When I think of her....I think of Jesus' words...to all of us...

Matthew 25:37-40 (ESV) 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Supernatural kindness....begins where our kindness ends...

Ephesians 4:32 (ESV) 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Christians are not called to one time kindness... It is to become the essence of who we are... I will often hear Christians...in their arrogance..say.... Those people only come to church on Easter and Christmas... And often I will think....that's ok... We only reach out to them on Christmas and Thanksgiving.

Christians who are filled with the Holy Spirit... Should exude kindness to everyone... Particularly those overlooked. Every day and every moment...as we walk in step with the Spirit.

David essentially adopted Mephibosheth. He was all in...totally committed He wasn't kind just on Thanksgiving Day or Christmas.. He was all in every day. Mother Teresa....all in 24/7

Every fruit of the Spirit...that we have discussed... Is to be expressed to those who cannot reciprocate it. Show love to those who are unlovable.... Show joy to those who have no joy. Show peace to those who have none Be patient with those who are impatient.

There is more to this story..... David's kindness to Mephibosheth is not over. Years later...Mephibosheth has eaten hundreds of meals that the King's Table. David has continued to show kindness every day.... But now King David is on the run... His son has turned against Him...Absalom David does not want to fight his son or kill his son So he flees the palace...

David's first thought is...where is Mephibosheth? Is he coming with me?

2 Samuel 16:3 (ESV) 3 And the king said, "And where is your master's son?" Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he (Mephibosheth) remains in Jerusalem, for he said, 'Today the house of Israel will give me back the kingdom of my father.' "

Ziba tells David that Mephibosheth believes... That David and Absalom will kill each other... And Mephibosheth will be restored as King. David...Mephibosheth has turned his back on you... He thinks he can inherit the Kingdom of his grandfather...King Saul

Imagine David's heart...after all he had done... All the kindness he had expressed.... The most painful betrayal always comes from those who are closest to you Do you know what...When you show kindness to people.. Some of them will stab you in the back? There will be some who turn on you.

David's Army Defeated Absalom David returns to the palace...and guess who is there waiting for him?

2 Samuel 19:25 (ESV) 25 And when he came to Jerusalem to meet the king, the king said to him, "Why did you not go with me, Mephibosheth?"

Imagine David's anger.. Imagine what he must have been thinking... After all I have done for you...

2 Samuel 19:26-27 (ESV) 26 He answered, "My lord, O king, my servant deceived me, for your servant said to him, 'I will saddle a donkey for myself, that I may ride on it and go with the king.' For your servant is lame.

I am lame..I couldn't get on the donkey... Ziba would not help me..

2 Samuel 19:27-28 (ESV) 27 He has slandered your servant to my lord the king. But my lord the king is like the angel of God; do therefore what seems good to you. 28 For all my father's house were but men doomed to death before my lord the king, but you set your servant among those who eat at your table. What further right have I, then, to cry to the king?"



Mephibosheth is throwing himself at the mercy of the King David doesn't know who to believe....Ziba...or Mephibosheth?

So you know what David does? He tells Mephibosheth...take half of all I have given you... And give it to Ziba... Since David can't tell who is speaking truth....he just splits everything between the two of them

2 Samuel 19:30 (ESV) 30 And Mephibosheth said to the king, "Oh, let him take it all, since my lord the king has come safely home."

Lord...He can have everything... I don't want any of it... I just want to sit at the table....know I have a place there... And eat my meals with the King... I don't want your stuff...I just want you. Don't miss the foreshadowing here.

Mephibosheth wanted more than anything... To be in a right relationship with the King... He realized that his place at the table...was worth more than anything else he could pursue. Nothing was more important than being welcome at the King's Table...

Let me share with you my fear... I am concerned that you will hear this sermon and leave thinking... 'I need to show kindness and goodness just like David or Mother Teresa' That is true but it is not the primary lesson... The primary lesson... What I hope you will think about as you leave today Is this...

You know...you and I are Mephibosheth...right?

We have become crippled...by a fall. Found in a far off desolate place Hiding from the King... Hearing that He might be kind to us...merciful But not sure until we surrender and submit Fearful of what He might do to us... But knowing that we are powerless in His presence.

Sought By the King But the King pursues us anyway... We are sought by the King...He wants us to come to Him We like Mephibosheth were not necessarily searching for the King... But the King is searching for us.

He has decided to pour out His Kindness We are totally undeserving... We can't earn it... We can't pay it back... He has decided to bless us...to save us.... Not because of what we have done.... But because of what someone else had done... Someone who died...long before we were born...

But thought enough of us...loved us enough...to make a covenant to save us. Saved for another's sake.... We were saved...not because of what we have done.... But because of what Jesus has done. The favor we have received is because of.... But because of God's love for His Son Jesus. And because of that....

We are restored to the King's Table He makes us one of His sons.. Not based on anything we have done... But based on a covenant made with someone else On our behalf.

In previous series...we talked a lot about our place at the table. We will one day...sit at the King's table... humble..broken..and grateful We will sit at that table with David....Mephibosheth....and Jonathan I have a feeling that when we realize the kindness that is extended to us.. From the heart of a very good God... That Mephibosheth..no longer crippled... Will smile and wink...

We are Mephibosheth

We have been given a great gift.. God's goodness and kindness has been poured out on us... Jesus left us the Holy Spirit... And as we develop our relationship with the Holy Spirit.... Goodness grows in our heart...and kindness is poured out. We understand it because we have received it.... Shame on us...if after receiving such great kindness... We fail to extend it to others.... To EVERYONE

Do you know why God wants His kindness poured out on others?

Because it melts the heart of sinners... Just like it melted ours... When you realize your sin...realize the power of the King... All you can do is plead for His mercy and kindness... And when you are given kindness...that you know you don't deserve... Kindness moves us to repent...

**Romans 2:4 (ESV) 4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?**

When the awareness of your sins...collides with God's Kindness It moves our heart to repent... You are moved to confess.. surrender...and follow the King.

So who has God placed in your path? Who is on your mind right now? Is there anyone you know....crippled by their sin.... That needs to see God's kindness poured through you.... To bring them to repentance? To rescue them from their fall? To restore them to the King's table...the King's family?

Ziba was sent as a messenger of the King.... To go to a no where place.... To find someone the world had overlooked...but the King wanted to bless... Ziba's mission was to bring them to the King.... To receive the kindness...that leads them... To repent...and take their seat at the table...forever. Is God calling you into someone's wilderness today?

That person on your mind right now... The one you may have overlooked... Maybe they are too messy...maybe too dirty...maybe too mean to you...your natural goodness and kindness for them has ended, but God's kindness begins where yours ends.

You must release the natural to allow the Supernatural to flow through you.

As we spend a few moments reflecting... Maybe you realize that you are Mephibosheth...

You want to believe in God's mercy...kindness...goodness. and forgiveness. But you know what you have done....and you can't imagine there is a place at God's table for you. You think coming to the King means death, but it is actually the only way to life.

Maybe God is using me to be your Ziba....maybe you are in your wilderness right now and you realize this place may be your oasis. Long before you were born....Jesus arranged for you too to be here. You don't deserve it...you can't earn it... The King has poured out His Goodness and Kindness into your world. You have been offered a seat at the King's Table. All you must do...is in faith...believe that Jesus died for you... There is no punishment at the altar of God... Come and surrender to your King....

Maybe you just want to come to the altar and ask for forgiveness..

Maybe you have taken for granted what it felt like to receive the King's undeserved favor. Maybe you have been taking your place at the table for granted. Perhaps God is bringing to your mind someone that you have not been kind to. Maybe someone you don't want to be kind to...but call is calling you to step into the supernatural with Him.

Perhaps you have been unwilling to go...you don't want that person to receive God's kindness....to take a seat at YOUR table. Come confess and ask God... To burden you until you for that person....to fill you with His goodness until it pours out on that person or those people.

Maybe you just want to tell God thanks... Thanks for loving you...because of Jesus.... Thanks for my place at your table... Thanks for allowing you...to be used by the Holy Spirit...to bring others to the King... Thanks for the blessing of bearing fruit...that comes straight from God...and reaches others.

Let me close with a quote from Mother Teresa...

"At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by 'I was hungry and you gave me to eat, I was naked and you clothed me, I was homeless and you took me in.' Hungry not only for bread -- but hungry for love. Naked not only for clothing -- but naked for human dignity and respect. Homeless not only for want of a room of bricks -- but homeless because of rejection." Mother Teresa

We are all Mephibosheth's. No one deserves their place at the Table....we are there because of God's goodness and kindness....You come....Lets pray....The altar is open.