

## Day 39 – Mercy

“Mercy is not giving someone what they deserve. Grace is giving someone what they don’t deserve.” While I cannot vouch for Rev. Andrew Wommack, this quote of his is right on point. And it speaks to King David’s treatment of Mephibosheth in today’s reading.

At Saul’s death, it would have been natural in that day and age for David to have all relatives of Saul, the former king, killed to avoid any uprisings of those seeking a Saulean Dynasty. But David had other things to accomplish, like conquering the rest of Israel, quieting his neighbors, and establishing his own reign. But now with that done, it was time for King David to finalize his hold on Israel and solidify his monarchy.

David, after a quick Google search, finds out that there is one remaining relative of Saul left alive, and David summons him. Mephibosheth is Jonathan’s son, Saul’s grandson, and we read a few days ago that when Mephibosheth was a baby, his nurse scooped him up to carry him to safety after the area was attacked, but in the rush she dropped him and crippled poor baby Mephibosheth for life. So now, years later, crippled Mephibosheth stands before King David for the King’s Justice.

And David does indeed establish His reign through Mephibosheth, but not by killing him. This would have been seen as justice carried out against any of Saul’s line. Instead, David does the opposite and adopts Mephibosheth, restoring Saul’s and servants to him. Mephibosheth will not eat at the King’s table and run his own estates. And in debt to David for all of this, Mephibosheth becomes both indebted to the King and enamored with him. In place of the King’s Justice David shows Mephibosheth the Lord’s Mercy.

When we face a difficult decision, one that expects an un-Christlike answer, look for another way. Usually there is a solution that comes from mercy rather than “justice”, expectation, or violence. And often this is the more lasting solution. It may mean turning the other cheek, going the extra mile, or simply forgiving when everyone tells us to keep hating. The Christlike answer will never be the wrong one.