

No Wonder It's Called Amazing

2Sam 9

Introduction:

1. A story is told about Fiorello LaGuardia, who, when he was mayor of New York City during the worst days of the Great Depression. He was a colorful character who used to ride the New York City fire trucks, raid speakeasies with the police department, take entire orphanages to baseball games, and whenever the New York newspapers were on strike, he would go on the radio and read the Sunday funnies to the kids. One bitterly cold night in January of 1935, the mayor turned up at a night court that served the poorest ward of the city. LaGuardia dismissed the judge for the evening and took over the bench himself.

Within a few minutes, a tattered old woman was brought before him, charged with stealing a loaf of bread. She told LaGuardia that her daughter's husband had deserted her, her daughter was sick, and her two grandchildren were starving. But the shopkeeper, from whom the bread was stolen, refused to drop the charges. *"It's a real bad neighborhood, your Honor."* the man told the mayor. *"She's got to be punished to teach other people around here a lesson."* LaGuardia sighed. He turned to the woman and said *"I've got to punish you. The law makes no exceptions—ten dollars or ten days in jail."* But even as he pronounced sentence, the mayor was already reaching into his pocket. He extracted a bill and tossed it into his famous sombrero saying: *"Here is the ten dollar fine which I now remit; and furthermore I am going to fine everyone in this courtroom fifty cents for living in a town where a person has to steal*

bread so that her grandchildren can eat. Mr. Baliff, collect the fines and give them to the defendant.”

So the following day the New York City newspapers reported that \$47.50 was turned over to a bewildered old lady who had stolen a loaf of bread to feed her starving grandchildren, fifty cents of that amount being contributed by the red-faced grocery store owner, while some seventy petty criminals, people with traffic violations, and New York City policemen, each of whom had just paid fifty cents for the privilege of doing so, gave the mayor a standing ovation.

2. My friends that is the essence of grace!
 - a. It recognizes our wretched condition; it pays our debt and it gives us more than we could ever have imagined.
 - b. No wonder it's called amazing!
3. The passage we consider today provides for us one of the clearest pictures of amazing grace in the Word of God.
 - a. God used David as a living illustration of what grace is all about.
 - b. I want to examine this text today.
 - c. I want to point out some observations about amazing grace.
 - d. I would like to preach for a few minutes on the thought: *No Wonder It's Called Amazing*.

I. AMAZING GRACE IS EXTENDED - VS 1-5

A. The Reason for This Grace - vs 1

1 And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?

1. David said that he wanted to show “kindness for Jonathan’s sake”
 - a) “*Kindness*” can be translated “*goodness, mercy, favor and loving kindness*”
 - b) *This is the OT equivalent to the NT word “grace”*

- c) *Grace is “the unmerited love and favor of God toward the undeserving.”*
- d) *Grace is one person accepting another person in a positive manner in spite of the unworthiness of the person being accepted*
2. David wanted to extend grace to a member of Saul’s family
 - a) *Normally the new king would kill everyone who was left from the family of the old king to prevent any problems from the family of the previous king.*
 - b) *David could have executed judgment but instead he chose to demonstrate grace for the sake of his friend Jonathan*
3. God extends His grace to vile, wretched sinners
 - a) *If we received what we deserved, we would receive judgment, damnation and hell*

Ro 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - b) *Neither you nor I have anything to commend us to God but because of Jesus we experienced God’s grace*
 - c) *No wonder it’s called amazing.*

B. The Reach of This Grace - vs 1

1 And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?

1. David was willing to extend his grace to “any that is left of the house of Saul”
2. Saul was his bitter enemy but that did not matter but David was willing to extend his grace to “any” member of the house of Saul
3. Our Lord’s amazing grace knows no boundaries
 - a) *It extends to all regardless of their past, their race, their social standing or their deeds*
 - b) *Not all will respond to the gospel message, but those who respond*

- will experience God's grace*
- c) *No one deserves God's grace, but anyone who wants it can have it*

c. The Response of this Grace - vs 1-5

1 And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake? 2 And *there was* of the house of Saul a servant whose name *was* Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, *Art thou* Ziba? And he said, Thy servant *is he*. 3 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. 4 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. 5 Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.

1. David discovered that one of Jonathan's sons was still alive and that he was crippled
2. Grace does not ask how crippled Mephibosheth is or concern itself with man's background, surroundings, abilities, appearance, his future potential etc.
 - a) *Grace asks "Where is he?"*
 - b) *Grace reaches out to "fetch" him*
3. So it is with God's amazing grace
 - a) *He sees us in our lost, sinful condition, dead in trespasses and in sins*
 - b) *Yet he loves us just as we are and draws us to Himself*
 - c) *If you are saved, it is because you were "fetched"*
4. No wonder it's called amazing!

II. AMAZING GRACE IS EMBRACED - VS 6-8

- Put yourselves in the shoes of Mephibosheth
 - He is one of the last members of the house of Saul
 - He lives in Lo-debar which means “no pasture”
 - He lives each day in fear that King David will have him executed
 - He is a poor, crippled man
 - Then one day it happens, the sound of horses and chariots outside that little house in Lo-debar.
 - Guards enter the house and inform Mephibosheth that the king wants to see him
 - Later Mephibosheth appeared before the king and it was nothing at all like he imagined
 - Notice how Mephibosheth responded to the grace of David

A. *With a Humble Heart - vs 6a*

6a Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence...

1. Mephibosheth appeared in the king’s presence
2. He knew that he deserved nothing but judgment from the king
3. Mephibosheth humbled himself and bowed before the king
4. How humble we should be when we approach God
5. It is a humbling thing when one trusts Christ as Savior

B. *With a Happy Heart - vs 6b-7*

6b ... And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant! 7 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.

1. Mephibosheth heard King David call his name
2. Instead of judgment, there was tenderness.
3. The king spoke peace to Mephibosheth's heart
 - a) *The king promised to restore the land and wealth that once belonged to the house of Saul*
 - b) *Then the icing on the cake - Mephibosheth was promised a place at the king's table*
4. With a happy heart Mephibosheth embraced the treasures of grace
 - a) *He would never go back to Lo-debar again*
 - b) *He was no longer poor*
 - c) *He wouldn't have to hide in fear any longer*
5. How happy the saved sinner
 - a) *He is no longer the enemy of God*
 - b) *He is translated into God's family*
 - c) *His sins are gone - forgiven - never to be brought up again*

C. With an Honest Heart - vs 8

8 And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?

1. Mephibosheth was overwhelmed by the grace that he had received
 - a) *He acknowledged that he was undeserving of such love and grace*
 - b) *Grace was extended and grace was embraced and nothing will ever be the same in his life again*
2. What a picture of the lost sinner who is drawn to Christ in grace
 - a) *The sinner knows that he deserves nothing but judgment and damnation from the hand of God*
 - b) *The sinner falls down in humility, reverence, and worship before the King*

- c) *Then the sinner finds out that grace has restored everything that sin took away*
- d) *Grace is embraced and everything changes*

Amazing Grace Embraced.....

III. AMAZING GRACE IS EXPANDED - VS 9-13

- Mephibosheth received grace but he also received more blessings than he could have ever imagined
- Notice what grace provided to Mephibosheth and what grace provides you and me

A. Grace Provided a Future - vs 9-11a

9 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.

10 Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in *the fruits*, that thy master's son may have food to eat: but Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread alway at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. 11 Then said Ziba unto the king, According to all that my lord the king hath commanded his servant, so shall thy servant do. As for Mephibosheth, *said the king*, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons.

1. In Lodebar Mephibosheth had nothing.
 - a) *He was poor. He was an outcast.*
 - b) *He had no hope and no prospects for the future*
 - c) *He had a pair of crutches and little more*
2. But when Mephibosheth experienced grace, everything changed
 - a) *His present needs were met*
 - b) *His future was secure.*
3. In Adam we had nothing
 - a) *We were lost, we were undone and headed to hell*

- b) *We were outcasts running from God*
- c) *In Christ we have hope for the future*
- d) *We are promised security*

Joh 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. 38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. 40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

1Pe 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- e) *We are promised a home in heaven*

Joh 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

- f) *We are promised God's presence all the way to heaven*

Heb 13:5 *Let your conversation be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Mt 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

4. No wonder it's called amazing

B. Grace Provided a Family - vs 11b

11 Then said Ziba unto the king, According to all that my lord the king hath commanded his servant, so shall thy servant do. As for Mephibosheth, *said the king*, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons.

1. Mephibosheth was adopted out of Saul's family into David's family
 - a) *Grace gave Mephibosheth a family*
 - b) *Everyday Mephibosheth saw his surroundings and he was in the presence of the king and he was reminded that he was the recipient of grace*
 - c) *Mephibosheth was where he was because of the grace of the king*
2. When grace reaches out and draws a poor, lost sinner that saved sinner is adopted into the family of God

Ro 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Ga 4:5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Eph 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,
3. We have been taken out of Adam's family, that doomed race and placed into Christ

Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

1Co 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.
4. Never forget what you were and what you have now and what you are because of God's grace

5. No wonder it's called amazing

c. Grace Provided Fulfillment - vs 13

12 And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Micha. And all that dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants unto Mephibosheth. 13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet.

1. Mephibosheth was a nobody in a house full of somebodies.
 - a) *There was Absalom, tall and handsome.*
 - b) *There were David's other sons.*
 - c) *There were David's beautiful wives and daughters.*
 - d) *There was Joab the general, proud and strong.*
 - e) *There were princes and princesses; soldiers and statesmen; men of wealth and men of power.*
 - f) *All of these took their place at the table of King David.*
 - g) *But wait, as the family gathers, there is the sound of a crippled man coming down the hallway.*
 - (1) There is the clump of his crutches and the sound of his feet being dragged.
 - (2) It is Mephibosheth and he takes his place at the King's table with all the rights and privileges as the rest.
 - (3) Then, when he takes his seat and the tablecloth falls across his legs.
 - (4) He looks just like the rest.
 - h) *Grace took a nobody from nowhere and made him a child of the King!*
2. Grace took you and me from Lodebar and made us children of God

Conclusion:

1. Julia Johnston penned a great hymn that speaks to what I have been trying to preach today. It is called “Grace Greater Than Our Sin.” It goes something like this:

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,
there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Refrain:

Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin!

Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold,
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,
Points to the refuge, the mighty cross.

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide.
What can avail to wash it away?
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide,
Brighter than snow you may be today.

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,
Freely bestowed on all who believe!
You that are longing to see his face,
Will you this moment his grace receive?

4. Thank God for grace! Thank God for His saving grace! No wonder it's called amazing!

5. Have you been “fetched?”
 - a. Has its power, promises and provisions been made real in your heart and soul?
 - b. If you are saved by grace, then you know what I have been trying to preach today.
 - c. If you have not, but feel like the King is calling you to come to Him, the time to do that is now.
 - d. If you would like to be saved; if you would like to have your fellowship with the King restored; or if you would like to come and thank Him for His grace, this altar is open.