

1 & 2 SAMUEL STUDY SERIES

God's Kindness

Week of April 12: 2 Samuel 9

Observation

1. Read 2 Samuel 9. What stands out to you in the text?

2. What questions do you have?

Observation: What does it say?

1. What do you notice about the text?
Things to look for:
 - repeating words and phrases
 - Answers to the questions: who, what, when, where and how?
 - contrasts and comparisons
 - similes and metaphors (images used in the text)
 - cause and effect relationships
 - details regarding: time, geography, place, people, action in the text
 - grammar
 - larger themes in the passage
 - key words and themes
2. What questions do you have?

Interpretation

1. The fact that Mephibosheth was lame is mentioned twice in the text (verses 3 and 13). Why do you think that the author might have wanted to draw our attention to this fact? (Also see the background to this in 2 Samuel 4:4).

2. The Hebrew word in verse 1, 3 and 7 translated 'kindness' can also be translated as goodness or faithfulness. We read in verse 3 that David wanted to show 'God's kindness' to someone from Saul's house. Why do you think he points out that it is God's kindness and not just his own that he wishes to extend?

3. From what you remember of David's story, how has he experienced God's kindness or faithfulness for himself?

Interpretation

The goal here is to answer questions raised by the text and to get at the central message of the passage itself.

What did the text mean for the original audience?

How might you summarize the central point of the passage?

Application

1. Do you think that our experience or understanding of God affects how we relate to other people? In what way?
2. When we show kindness to someone could we also say that it is God's kindness that we are extending? Why or why not?

Suggestion for Prayer

Spend time thanking God for the ways that you have experienced his kindness in your life.