

Sunday
12th Nov.
2023

The Fruit of
the Spirit
Gal:5:22-23



THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

PART 4

GALATIANS 5:22-23

‘KINDNESS’

- Today's message: 2 Samuel 9:1-13
- **David's Kindness to Mephibosheth**

As we reflect on

The fruit of the Spirit, which is “**love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control**”

(Galatians 5:22-23).

Talking about Goodness last week, I said that Goodness is an internal quality that we develop through our relationship with God, the more we draw closer to God and His power, the more we become better,

Goodness encompasses moral excellence, honesty, and righteousness. Kindness, on the other hand, is an outward expression of goodness, the practical ways in which we love and relate with people.

a) In the Bible, we have Abraham who showed great hospitality to three strangers who visited him. He welcomed them to his house and offered them food, drinks, and a place to rest. (*Genesis 18*)

b) In Luke chapter 10:25-37, we have the story of a good Samaritan who helped a man who was robbed and left for dead along the road; and Jesus healing people and feeding the hungry like the 5,000 people (Luke 9).

c) One of the best examples from the Old Testament accounts of this kindness is the story of David and Mephibosheth. David had made a promise to his best friend, Jonathan, that he would show kindness to his family should anything happen to him. (*1 Samuel 20:12-17*)

2 Samuel 9:1-13.

9 Now David said, “Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him ‘**kindness**’ for Jonathan’s sake?”

2 And there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, “Are you Ziba?” He said, “At your service!”

3 Then the king said, “Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?” And Ziba said to the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan who is lame in his feet.”

4 So the king said to him, “Where is he?”
“And Ziba said to the king, “Indeed he
is in the house of Machir the son of
Ammiel, in Lo Debar.” 5 Then King
David sent and brought him out of the
house of Machir the son of Ammiel,
from Lo Debar.

6 Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, “Mephibosheth?” And he answered, “Here is your servant!”

7 So David said to him, “Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father’s sake and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually.”⁸

Then he bowed himself, and said, “What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?”

9 And the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house. 10 You therefore, and your sons and your servants, shall work the land for him, and you shall bring in the harvest, that your master's son may have food to eat.

But Mephibosheth your master's son shall eat bread at my table always.”

Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. 11 Then Ziba said to the king, “According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will your servant do.”

“As for Mephibosheth,” said the king, “he shall eat at my table like one of the king’s sons.” 12 Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Micha. And all who dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants of Mephibosheth. 13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king’s table. And he was lame in both his feet.

Most of us know that Johnathan had a son who was lame in both feet, and when his nurse received the sad news about the death of Saul (*Grandfather*) and Jonathan (*his father*) had died, his nurse picked him up and fled, but as she hurried to leave, he fell and became disabled. (*2 Samuel 4:4*). So, Mephibosheth went into hiding, why?

Because he was afraid that David would kill him. In those days it was common for a new king to kill the rest of the other royal family, so that there was no other challenger to the throne. David sent for Mephibosheth, Johnathan's son, so that he could, "show the kindness of God to him" (*2 Samuel 9:3*).

When Mephibosheth came to David, he was expecting to be killed and fell on his face and paid homage to him. David responded and said, “Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Johnathan and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father and you shall eat at my table always” (2 Samuel 9:7).

How can we cultivate this kindness?

1. Serving others

- a) **When we pray for each other, we are serving others.** *“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests, With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” (Ephesians 6:18).*

b) When we share and give to those in need, we are serving others. “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it... And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” (Hebrews 13:2,16).

c) When we encourage others. “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

d) When we share the Gospel of Christ. “Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.” (Psalm 96:3).

2. When we forgive: *“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling, and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”*
(Ephesians 4:31-32).

David had every opportunity to get revenge with Mephibosheth, but David chose kindness. In this story David represents the picture of Christ and Mephibosheth represents us. We are sinners and unable to walk, Jesus is inviting us to his table again.

The story of Mephibosheth is a reminder to us that sin had crippled us, we were weak and broken, yet God through his own Kindness offers us a place on his table.