

The Blood Covenant

Life Group Lesson

March 20, 2011

The covenant between David and Jonathan, Saul's son, was a blood covenant. In 1 Samuel 18-20 we find that Saul had become jealous of David and wanted to kill him. David was forced to leave Saul's palace and go into hiding. This caused Jonathan, David's best friend, and him to be separated.

Before David left, he and Jonathan plotted to meet each other (1 Samuel 20). Verse 41 tells us about the first meeting between the two. *"And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded."* David was overwhelmed when he saw Jonathan again because he loved him, his covenant brother, as he loved himself.

This friendship and blood covenant is a type that Jesus entered into with us on the cross. Just as David and Jonathan were separated, so are we separated from Jesus. He is in heaven and we are on earth. But the greatest separation is how sin separates us from God. The new blood covenant of Jesus' death on the cross redeems us from sin – 2 Corinthians 5:8; Matthew 26:28; 1 Corinthians 6:20 (great verses!)

Saul, Jonathan, and all his brothers were killed in battle and David took the throne. But David did not forget the blood covenant he made with Jonathan. It carried on and included Jonathan's son.

Read 1 Samuel 18:1-4

- How did Jonathan and David become one?
- How did David love Jonathan (v. 1, 3)
- What did they make with each other?
- What is a covenant?
- What did Jonathan give to David that showed he was serious in this covenant?
- What is Jesus' covenant with us?
- Why did Jesus make a new covenant with us on the cross?
- What does Jesus give us to show this covenant was serious? (i.e. new life, grace, sonship, Holy Spirit, right to be children of God)

Read 2 Samuel 9:1-4

- Who did David extend the covenant to?
- In what condition was Mephibosheth?
- In what condition are we before we enter Jesus' blood covenant?

Read 2 Samuel 4:4

- What was wrong with Mephibosheth?

The name Mephibosheth means "a shameful thing". He had been living in LoDebar, which means "dry or desert place" in the home of Machir, which means "swindler/salesman". In other words, Mephibosheth was a cripple living in shame in a desert in the house of a swindler/crooked salesman. The nurse fled with Mephibosheth when he was young because she believed Saul's lies that David would kill him. Can you see the nurse telling Mephibosheth all his life that "the reason you live in a dump is because of David. The reason you are lame is because of David. David did this to you." I'm sure he grew up hating and fearing the household of David. He did not know about the covenant between his father Jonathan and David.

Mephibosheth is a type of person in this world. Think about how the devil drops us and cripples us. Think about how our old nature in Adam (sinful nature) causes us to be lame. Can you see the devil has been telling you, "God did this to you and it's all God's fault. It's God's fault your family is falling apart. It's

God's fault you've never become anything good. God doesn't love you." Sadly, we believe the devil because we don't realize the blood covenant of Jesus that was drawn up before we were ever born.

- Does this sound like you?
- Are you believing the lies of the devil or trusting in the covenant of God?
- Have you given your life to Christ – thus entering into Jesus blood covenant.
- Have you been blaming God for your situation or have you been walking in the new covenant?
- Are you living in dry places or are you living in the newness of life in Christ Jesus?
- Are you living in your old name and shame or in your new identity in Christ?

Read 2 Samuel 9:5

- What did David do to Mephibosheth?
- David went after Mephibosheth and fetched him. The ignorant sinner doesn't take the initiative – God does. Are you glad there was a day that Jesus came after you and found you? He picked you up and escorted you into His kingdom through His redemptive work in the blood covenant on the cross.

Read 2 Samuel 9:6

- Mephibosheth bowed down before David in fear he was going to be killed. He still had not been awakened to the goodness of the new position in the family. Isn't that how some of look at God before we truly know the blessings of the new covenant?
- David called him name. Aren't you glad Jesus knows and called you by name?

Read 2 Samuel 9:7

- How did David honor the covenant with Jonathan?
- What could Mephibosheth offer David? Nothing! He was lame and poor. He wouldn't even make a good servant.
- What do we have to offer Jesus? Our righteousness is as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6).
- What did David give back to Mephibosheth in this covenant?
- What does Jesus give us in the blood covenant? (i.e. new life, restoration, grace, peace)

Read 2 Samuel 9:8-11

- What did David say to Ziba?
- List what David give back to Mephibosheth.
- When you came to Christ, He gave you back what was lost under Adam. Now, Mephibosheth would eat at the king's table. Sitting at the table (a picture of grace) covered Mephibosheth's lameness. He was now a king's son.
- What is covered by Jesus gift of salvation and grace to us on the cross? (i.e. sin, death, separation from God – we are redeemed, reborn, forgiven, cleanses, made righteous, etc.
- What do you receive from God now that you are at the king's table? Compare this to what you get apart from Christ in a dry, desert, shameful, untruthful place.
- What was Mephibosheth now? (end of verse 11)
- What are you once you are in the New Blood Covenant?

Response Time

- Spend a few minutes praying for those who have not recognized their new place in Christ.
- Ask if there is anyone in the group who needs to give their life to Christ. Without salvation, people will remain in a dry and weary place, with no hope. They will forever live in the lies that Satan tells them and continue to live in shame and guilt of their sins. People need to recognize and walk in their new position in Christ – they are seated at the King's table because they have become sons and daughters – children of God, heirs with God and co-heirs with Christ Jesus.