

‘Heir’!

***Acts 13:36 -“For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay.**

God has a purpose for every generation...**Martin Luther, bringing the Great Reformation, John Wesley brought spiritual renewal in England, etc.**

***Don’t want you to waste your life! This teaching tonight, ‘Heir’, is designed to help you do just that.**

I want to go to a great O.T. story to give an illustration of us being ‘heirs’ in Christ. Charles Swindoll-the greatest illustration of grace in the Old Testament...

We begin with King David, actually before he was ever inaugurated as king! He is running for his life from at the time, King Saul. David becomes very close to Saul’s son, Jonathan. To the point of **making a ‘covenant’** with him, **a blood covenant as brothers**, that should Jonathan ever hear of any goings on that could come and harm David, Jonathan would get word to David so as to warn him. And David made a ‘covenant’ back to Jonathan to ‘have his and his descendants’ backs all the days of his life.

1-1 Samuel 20:11-17- David and Jonathan

#2-1 Samuel 24:20-22-Saul talking to David and David responding to Saul...

20-And now I know indeed that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. 21-Therefore swear now to me by the Lord that you will not cut off my descendants after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father's house." 22-So David swore to Saul...

***This is critical because it was custom in eastern dynasties, that when a new king took over, (they all had said that David would one day be the new king), all the family members of the previous dynasty were exterminated to take away the possibility of revolt.**

Time has marched on...victory after victory....and David remembers Jonathan...

2 Samuel 9:1-1-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?"

'Kindness-Hebrew-'grace'-(When we were unable to help ourselves...)

v.3-"There is still a son of Jonathan who is lame in his feet." (Notice: King David doesn't even ask 'how' Mephibosheth became lame in his feet. He doesn't care!

***We learn of the 'how' in 2 Samuel 4:4-...upon hearing the news of Saul and Jonathan's deaths, Mephibosheth's nurse took him and fled. She no doubt was fleeing to protect him. In their hurry, Meph. tripped, and became crippled.**

v. 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 LoDebar."...

Lo-debar! Lo=No...debar=pasture...so the very name of Lo-debar means "Not a pasture." **LAND OF NOTHING...Lo-debar was located in the wilderness.**

v.5-Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir from Lo Debar

v.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!"

v.7-So David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show you 'kindness (grace)' 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."

***Mephibosheth-Shameful one-the descendant of the anointed one of Israel**

***Did he do anything to 'earn' this royal position? No...it was imparted... it was a gift... he did nothing to 'earn it'. But here he is, 'royalty', part of the lineage of the king, and he is living in Lo-debar.**

In fact:

While Mephibosheth was in Lo-debar, was this covenant that King David had with Jonathan already in tact? Absolutely! **The covenant of promise cut between David and Jonathan provided for Meph before he was ever born.**

***Ephesians 1:4-5-Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will**

***How to get out?** The only way out: A king would have to remember his covenant that he made many years prior, and honor that covenant. So a king would have to summons Mephibosheth and stoop down and invite him to the table. GRACE! Pursued by King David...

***Parallels:** Of course...you see it...US, (explain) –a King had to come and get us...**cross**

***Adam and Eve...**only to fall, incur a great crippling and only a king could make it right. But a KING did make it right! (Cross)

***The table HAS BEEN set! Show the cross...as a table...**

Mephibosheth had a rightful place to the palace, even though he didn't know it. He was an 'heir' with royal lineage.

We were all Mephibosheth! We were all lame! We needed a King to summon us and get us out! And He did!

*****Let's go a bit further. The Bible says you are an 'heir' if you are 'in Christ'.**

'Heir'-one who receives an inheritance by right of birth. Proverbs 13:22-A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children.

Galatians 3:29-if you are Christ's, then you are an heir...you are offered the promises and all the treasures of heaven! You have Christ Himself empowering you through His precious Spirit!

Yet, like Mephibosheth, we oftentimes, settle...in Lo Debar...begging and pleading for crumbs, white knuckling it through life.

***What keeps you in Lo-Debar? (What awaits you if you get out?)**

1. **1. playback mechanism in our minds...** We all have a **playback mechanism in our minds** *Mephibosheth's playback?
 1. Running for his life; fleeing; tripping; crippling himself
Fear; unbelief; complacency; discouragement-
 2. The rule that anyone from the 'other' dynasty had to be put to death may have been playing over and over and over...fear!
 3. Life and hardship can push you from the truth of your 'royal status' in the Kingdom to that of a beggar in Lo-debar.
 4. Maybe his handicap...after all, he had his crutches right in front of him the whole time. **But still, handicap or no handicap, the table was still set; he was invited to come and dine. He simply had to 'rise up' and go!**

***Don't focus on your condition; your 'handicap'. It will keep you in LoDebar. Focus on your position 'in Christ'. You are an 'heir', seated with Christ in heavenly places if Christ lives in you.**

***You must remain conscious of 'who' and 'whose' you are in Christ. Then you will have power to change your condition!**

5. **Self effort...rather than walking by the Spirit of God...(Relax! It's not all up to you!)**
2. **Lack of knowledge-Hosea 4:6-"My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge." Guilt, shame, feeling worthless, you hide...no need to hide! He has provided!**
3. **Others' opinions of you- Proverbs 29:25-"The fear of man brings a snare" "The fear of human opinion disables; trusting in God protects you from that." Message Bible**
4. **Circumstances: 'circumference; going in circles, not 'seeing' the progress you would like to 'see'....**

Susie Larson-*We are heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. **"Our heir status doesn't change with our season of life or with our ability to perform. We're heirs not because we do well but because of what Jesus Christ has done for us."**

What awaits you if you leave Lo-debar?

First and foremost, God Himself! C.H. Spurgeon-Now, also, saith the apostle, we are heirs—"Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." No man living has ever realised to the full what this means. Believers are at this moment heirs, but what is the estate? It is God himself! We are heirs of God! Not only of the promises, of the covenant engagements, and of all the blessings which belong to the chosen seed, but heirs of God himself. "The Lord is my portion, saith my soul." "This God is our God for ever and ever."

(*What does this mean? What can it mean? Do you dare to even begin to explore this truth? I believe if you even tipped the iceberg, your life would continue to change dramatically!)

1. **Peace- v.7-**So David said to him, **"Do not fear**
2. **'kindness (grace)'**- for I will surely show you **'kindness (grace)'** for Jonathan your father's sake
3. **Restoration- I will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather**
4. **Provision- and you shall eat bread at my table continually."**

Not to mention, salvation, eternal life, the Name of Jesus, the Promises of God, (there's an 'inheritance' verse that speaks to your situation!)...all things...Not to mention, salvation, eternal life, the Name of Jesus, the Promises of God, (there's an 'inheritance verse' that speaks to your situation!)

To feast in His presence, rely on His promises, walk in His power. May we walk in the knowledge of Who He is and Whose we are! "May we carry ourselves with a holy confidence and a humble dependence that reflects who we are because of Him!" S. Larson

Meph had to move from Lo-debar to the table, in order to claim his blessing-and so do we! *You must come to the table: it has been set. (cross)

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My challenge to you....fully embrace what you possess because you have Christ. You have everything you could ever need to fulfill your divine destiny on this earth. Tough times have set you back? What a great night to come back! Learning that this whole thing is not up to you! That the price has been paid for your victory!

Romans 5:1-2

1. **Salvation: Have you ever been to the table?**

2. Then there are others, You're being summoned... 'Grace' is being extended to you once again... maybe one of the reasons 'why' you don't take advantage of being an 'heir' at the table, is that you can identify with one of the reasons I listed: maybe you have a 'playback mechanism' going over and over in your mind: "I'll never do that again!" "I tried and look what happened", or maybe you're struggling with fear and doubt....this is your night...His mercies are new every morning...rise again....take your 'lameness' and place it under the table...

*Take your crippled legs, take your... fill in the blank...and place them under the King's table. Let God's GRACE cover you!

*When Meph sat at David's table, no one could see his handicap. His position covered his weakness and frailty. Your position in Christ covers your sin, failure, weakness, and frailty. You are in the right position as the King's son to be covered by His saving, healing, and restoring love.