

Proverbs 19:10-11

Sunday 1/29/2017

Amen. That's a great song. Good song to preach after. Today, if you have your Bibles, I want to invite you to turn to Proverbs chapter 19. We are going to be focusing on two verses today, verses 10 and 11. I want to talk to you about what I personally believe is one of the most powerful verses in all the Bible. I have never really heard it preached on; it needs to be preached on. I think it is, without a doubt, one of the greatest studies that I want to take you to today, and I think it is one of the most powerful things that we could ever do as a church together.

Up to now, as we have come through the book of Proverbs, I have taken the time to lay out the doctrinal aspect first. I have showed you how important that is and how when you learn that, then you can just move into the other area and show you that, and then move into the practical application. You know that I basically teach you three applications of scripture. It is really the way to put the Bible together.

I talked about the fact that the Bible has a historical application. That means that it actually happened in history. It is a real event that took place, not something that somebody made up. Also, I talk about the Bible having a doctrinal application. The word doctrine means to teach. Everything in the Bible will have a prophetic application toward the second coming of Christ and the establishment of God's kingdom, which is the theme of the Bible. Then I teach you that the Bible has an inspirational application. That is something that, in a general sense, we can apply across the board to our relationship with Christ.

But in reality, there is a fourth concept application of the scriptures that goes way beyond the three. It will be the personal application. It will be the application that you only apply to yourself. It will be the application that forgets the doctrine, forgets the historical, forgets the across-the-board, nice, practical, general way. It will be something that goes right into your heart. It will be something that when you apply this one, you can forget who is sitting left or right of you or in front of you or behind you. It speaks right to your heart and your relationship where you walk with God.

Today, I am going to tell you right up front, I am going to preach to you. There will not be any teaching today. In a verse like we are going to talk about today, it demands to be preached. There are certain things in the Bible that I believe that if you try to teach them instead of preach them, you probably lose your salvation. This verse, this concept, this passage screams to be preached.

Today, I am praying it is a concept and a principle so powerful that if you ever fully grasp it today, and this is why this is a personal application, there is not going to be any doctrine in it today. There is not going to be any history in it. I am not aiming across the board to give you some practical truth that will help you. No, no, no. We are going to talk today about probably the most precious application of the scriptures, and that is directly into your heart.

A concept and a principle so powerful that if you ever fully grasp it, you will never be the same person again. I know within our church there are many of you men and women and young men and ladies whom God has changed your life. I understand that. There are some in any church that

God has not changed their life. I am praying today that one or two of you will get past yourself, get past all that you focus on as so crucial in your life, and get back to the greatest single fundamental concept that will change your life forever.

I. Our Three Infirmities

In the Bible, we have problems, you and I. The Bible talks about that you and I have three fundamental infirmities that we struggle with all the time. We talked about this a little bit Thursday night.

At Romans 6:19, the first infirmity that it says we have is our flesh. Somebody asked the question, "Do the devils attack us? Does the devil attack us? How does he come after us in our walk with God?" Thursday night, I made the statement that the devil does not have to come after us because we do a very good job of screwing ourselves up. It always comes back to our flesh. The flesh that you and I have, the book of Romans talks about, "in my flesh dwelleth no good thing." Every problem that you have will start with your own nature and start with your flesh. It is just that simple.

The second thing that we have as an infirmity, the Bible says in Romans 8:26, is that we simply do not know how to pray. I do not mean this in a bad way, and I hate to be negative about this this morning, but I want to say that probably 98 to 99% of God's people's prayers today are worthless. They never get out of the room by which they speak them because there are some real biblical things that have to be behind prayer for prayer to be workable. We do not know how to pray. He makes it very clear that is one of our infirmities.

The third infirmity is found in Psalms 77:10. This is the one I want to really focus on today. That is, we have the constant infirmity that we forget what God has done for us. When we forget what God has done, then we lose our perspective. We start taking all that God has done for us for granted. Then we lose sight of this great verse that I want to preach about today. We lose our edge. We lose our discretion, our perspective, our balance, our understanding. In time, many times, we just lose track of God in our lives.

Yet we come to church every Sunday, have the right Bible. People think you cannot do that. Coming to church means nothing. I am glad you are here. Having the right Bible means nothing if it does not change and impact your life from who you once were to where you are now and keep you there. What are you doing here today? We think today that we can go to church, have a Bible, and that makes us okay. We do not go to things of the world, and we think in our mindset that that makes us okay. We think that we can never get separated from God in that. You are wrong.

Over there in Luke 2:46, the story is that Jesus' own parents were on the road going somewhere, and all the family was together, and everybody was having a good time. The Bible says that they supposed that Jesus was with them. When they got to their destination, they found out that He was nowhere around. They lost track of Him for three days before they found Him in the temple. They thought He was with them. They were all walking along, holding hands, talking, and they just assumed and supposed that Jesus was right there with them. For three days they did not

know He was not with the family. Then one day they woke up three days later and said, "Hey, where is He?" If His own family can lose Him on a road going where they are wanting to go, I want to tell you something, in your walk in life you can lose track of Him and think He is with you when He is not.

II. Proverbs 19:10 Explained

Now I want to read today for you Proverbs chapter 19, verses 10 and 11. Then I want to preach to you this morning.

Proverbs 19:10-11

10 Delight is not seemly for a fool; much less for a servant to have rule over princes.

11 The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.

Now verse 10 says, and what he is saying is very simple and a very simple principle. He says a man who is a fool will never experience any delight in the things of the Lord. That is what he is saying. He will have heartache, he will have disappointment, he will have unfulfilled dreams and desires, he will have trouble, he will have broken promises, he will have broken relationships, and he will have no hope.

The illustration is really clear. Just as a servant will not wake up some morning and find that he is in charge over the kings and the princes, a fool will not wake up some morning and be happy with life or delight himself in the things of God. The verse is pretty self-explanatory. That is not the verse that I am going to preach to you about. I just had to get rid of it before I could get where I needed to go. Easy verse, but here we go.

III. Proverbs 19:11 Explained

Then we come to the day, and here lies our message, verse 11. It says:

Proverbs 19:11

11 The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.

For you and for me, the average Christian, the Christian that understands the word of God, we are to overlook many of the sins of the brethren. Romans 15:1 says:

Romans 15:1

1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

There will be things that younger Christians do or mature Christians do. Some things that they will get into, some things that they will say, and you and I as God's people, we need to help them with it and overlook those things and not let it become a problem for us. Ephesians 4:32 says:

Ephesians 4:32

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Now there is the key to your forgiveness. There are going to be some people in life that it is going to be hard for you to forgive. I mean, you have your garden variety, somebody says something to you and it is no big brainer. But sometimes people are going to do something to you, they are going to say something about you, or they are going to do something that really hurts you, and you are going to have a hard time forgiving them.

Let me just say this, when you cannot forgive them through your own Christian walk and relationship with God, then there comes a time when you have got to forgive them for Christ's sake. You have got to do it for Him. You do it for Him based on what He did for you. It is just that simple. If you cannot forgive on your own, then you do it through Christ for His sake.

Many people have a problem forgiving people. Unfortunately, most of God's people can never do that. So they go around in life with absolutely no delight in life. It will come to the point where people will hold grudges. For 30 years I have seen families have fights for 30, 40 years that they never spoke to each other. I have seen children have problems with their mother or the father or vice versa, and they refuse to bury the hatchet or work things out and try to go through life thinking that they can actually have. Many times ex-husbands and ex-wives, and they get along most of the time they do not. Many times it turns into a bitterness.

Bitterness is something that nobody really wants to ever go down that road and experience. Because bitterness, we get the idea that bitterness is like me taking poison and it is going to kill the person I am bitter against. The only thing that bitterness is going to do is kill you. It is going to destroy you. All because of the fact that we do not have the ability, it is not to God's glory for us to pass over a transgression.

IV. The Personal Application: God Passing Over Our Transgression

But I want to go beyond what I just said. I want to take you into a personal application of this verse that will hopefully change your life. Today, forget doctrinal, forget historical, forget inspirational. Let us get one on one with the Lord this morning. Let us forget, honestly, that anybody else is in this room but you. Let us just stop and quit comparing ourselves to everybody else. Let us stop looking at other people and masking what is wrong with us by trying to blame somebody else. Let us just take the personal application of what I am about to say and let it sink in, and hopefully, it will change your life.

There is no question that in a church this size, there are some young men and some young ladies, maybe some couples, some moms or dads, that you are on a road to destruction. You are headed down the wrong road. You have been hanging out with the wrong people. You have been listening to the wrong stuff. You are coming to the place where your attitude this morning toward the things of God is not where it needs to be. Do you know why? You have forgotten what God

has done for you. You have lost sight of the greatest day in your life, and that is the day when He, to His glory, passed over your transgression. I want to preach on that great truth today.

Verse 11 says, "and it is to His glory to pass over a transgression." I want you to go home with this today. I want you to forget that there is anybody else in here, just like you are here all by yourself, and I am preaching to you.

There are some great examples of this in the Bible that will illustrate this great precept and this great verse. But I think the greatest example ever will be found in 2 Samuel 9. I want you to turn to that passage of Scripture. The greatest study in the Bible, in my own humble opinion, on grace and how to the glory of God, God passed over my transgression. It sets the stage and the model for every one of us today based on what God has done for us, how you and I have to understand what He did, and God gives us the ability to pass over some things that people do.

Actually, this chapter 12, the great story that illustrates much of this, is the fact that back in the children of Israel when they were coming out of Egypt, God came down and He told them to take a lamb and kill that lamb and put the blood on the doorpost and on the lintel. That would mean on the two sides and the top. The Bible says that when the Lord came through Egypt that night, a type of the picture of the world, when the Lord came through Egypt that night, when He saw the blood, He said, "When I come through Egypt that night, when I see the blood, when I see the blood, when I see the blood, I will pass over you." We sing the psalm, "When I see the blood, when I see the blood, when I see the blood, I will pass, I will pass, I will pass over you."

Do you know what God did when He saw the blood of Christ and saw you in it and you came to Him? He passed over your transgression for Christ's sake. That is what He did. I say to you today, "The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is to His glory to pass over a transgression." Well, that is what we lack today. We lack the discretion to be able to see people, circumstances. They may not dress the way we like them to dress. They may not do all the things the way we want them to do or the way we would do it. We let that be a stumbling block that breaks the bond between two Christians. You ought to be ashamed of yourself.

I want to tell you a story this morning about grace. I want to tell you a story this morning that is such a personal application that you should close your eyes and get it in your mind that you are the only one here today. I want to talk to you about the story of David and Mephibosheth. One of the greatest stories and examples of grace in the Bible.

V. The Story of David and Mephibosheth

Let us read together.

2 Samuel 9:1-13

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 Lo-debar.

5 Then king David sent, and fetched 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, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. 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.

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

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.

11 Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

12 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.

13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet.

The Old Testament has always been a favorite part of the Bible for me. I am not very complex when it comes to the Word of God. Not very smart when it comes to the Word of God. I believe the less IQ you have, the better chance you have of learning something from God. I think intelligence sometimes hurts your ability to just have a childlike faith. But I learned a long time ago that the reason why I love the Old Testament is because the Bible is a picture book.

We have in our bookstore back here, I can see them at the corner back there, children's books on the Bible, children's Bibles. When they write books about the Bible for children, they know the children do not have a really good comprehension concept yet. So they illustrate what they read. You get a book back there, and maybe a book of the great events in the Bible, and it will start to talk about Noah, and you will read a page, and then you will turn a page, and then there will be a full color picture that will illustrate what you just read. So the child can see what he reads, see the picture, correlate the picture with what he read, and make the analogy of what he is doing. He

will read a few more pages, and then there will be another picture. It will go through that whole book that way.

The Bible says, Jesus said, "Except ye come to me as a little child, ye have no part of me." When God wrote the Bible, and I know the scholars do not get this, but the scholars do not get much. When God wrote the Bible, He wrote me a picture book. He wrote me a book that I would go through, study something, and read it, and then He would give me a picture, like He is giving me here of Mephibosheth and David. He talked to me about God dying on the cross. He talked to me about grace. He talked to me about all the great principles, and then He would give me a picture of it, so I could understand it. Every great New Testament doctrine or principle will be illustrated by a story in the Old Testament to make it clear and plain. That is what we are going through in people ministry.

Do you know what is wrong with you and me? Do you know why I will not forgive others? Do you know why you will not forgive others and pass over their transgression that they do to us? I have seen them sometimes when they have done nothing to you. I have seen people not like somebody or have a grudge against somebody, and that person never did a thing to them. But do you know why that is the way we are? We forgot today that God reached down and passed over our transgression for Christ's sake. We forgot today that everything that we said was abhorrent to a holy God. We actually think because we get so self-indulged, so self-righteous. We think we are so important, and we think to the point where we just have so much going for us. We forget the day that God reached down and touched us and passed over our transgression for Christ's sake. He did what nobody else could do, and we as God's people are not willing to do that for somebody else.

Remember how it was before you got saved? Some of you do. Many of you do not. You have lost it now in who you are. You have lost the remembrance of that in your career. You have come to the point where you have forgotten the day. As the Bible says in Psalms 40:1-2:

Psalms 40:1-2

1 I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

You forget what that pit was like. You have the joy, joy, joy down in your heart now. You have a church. You have the Bible. You have everything you want. You have a good job. You have all your family, everything around you. We forget the day we were in that pit. That is where we belong. We still should be down there, and to God's glory, He passed over my transgression. We have forgotten that, and I believe that God puts stories in the Bible just like 2 Samuel chapter 9, because we forget.

Now as we look at this story here, let me begin to build a case here for you. Let me set the scene for you. Let us identify our cast of characters in this great picture that God is giving us to illustrate grace and to illustrate how great a day it was when God, to His glory, passed over my transgression through Jesus Christ.

- David: God the Father
- Jonathan: Jesus Christ
- The House of Saul: The World System/Devil
- Ziba: The Holy Spirit
- Mephibosheth: The Unsavd Man

Mephibosheth, breathing shame, he is an undesirable individual. He is filthy. He smells. He is unkempt. He is from the family of the devil, John 8:44, Saul, that is the sworn enemy of David, who is a type of God the Father. As we look at Mephibosheth and David, we see the complete total contradictory position between you and me before we got saved with God. Mephibosheth has nothing. Before you got saved, you may have thought you had something. I have news for you, you did not have anything. David, on the other hand, has the wealth of the world. Mephibosheth is a filthy beggar. David, on the other hand, is king. Mephibosheth is filthy and dirty and unkempt. David is clean and wholesome. Mephibosheth is lame. He is a cripple. He cannot walk. He cannot be too much tall and strong. The contrast between Mephibosheth, breathing shame, and David is the difference between night and day. It pictures where you and I were the day God found us.

VI. The King's Grace

Yet in our story, just like there was in your life if you are saved today, no matter how contradictory you were toward God, no matter what your name, breathing shame, no matter where you and I were, just like in our story, there came a day when God the King said to the Holy Spirit of God, "Is there any left down there of the house of Saul the devil that I can still bring in and make my son?" Ziba, the Holy Spirit of God, said, "Yes, there is Mephibosheth, the grandson of Saul." The King said, "Where is he at?" He said, "Oh, King, he is down at Lo-debar." The King said, "Go fetch him."

Do you remember the day when the Holy Spirit of God first knocked on your door? We are famous for remembering days. Most of you kids cannot remember this. Some of you older ones will. I remember exactly what I was doing the day JFK was shot. I was in the eighth grade. I was homesick that day. I was watching something on television and all of a sudden Walter Cronkite broke in and said that the president had just been assassinated in Dallas. I remember that day until I die. That day is indelibly imprinted on my mind. There will never be a day in my life when I will not know exactly what I was doing on that day when President Kennedy was shot.

Remember what you were doing when 9/11 happened? Most of you now were alive for that. Some of you were getting your noon feeding. I was working down Paola, Kansas, and I was out marking some fiber lines and I looked up and all of a sudden I saw all these jets with their vapor trails. They were turning around and making a circle and going back there. I mean like five or six of them. I got a call on the radio from my foreman that the terrorists had just attacked on 9/11. I

will never forget that as long as I live. We forget, do not we? We will not forget JFK. We will never forget 9/11. But we forget the day that the Holy Spirit of God came and first fetched you.

Love stories or movies in life are rooted in the Bible. You know how they go. A guy looks at a gal when they are going to school someplace or they work in a place and he sees her. He thinks she is beautiful. He falls in love immediately. She will not give him the time of day. Then he goes over at the water cooler sometimes and he says something stupid. She does not give him the time of day. He stays persistent. Pretty soon, she recognizes him. Pretty soon, because of his persistence, they go out for the first date. Pretty soon, she sees his good qualities and she falls in love with him and they get married and live happily ever after. That is how it always goes. It all goes back to that first time that he walked over with the love in his heart beating out his throat wanting to talk to her because he was in love with her. I am going to tell you something. You have forgotten a day when God came to you with His heart beating up in His throat because He loved you so much. When He sent the Holy Spirit of God to fetch you. How do we forget things like that?

What follows will be a picture of the day through God's grace. He passed over your transgression. Now in verse 6, it says Mephibosheth, they go and get him and they bring him to David. He falls on his face and David calls him by name. Let me just stop here for a moment. The Bible says that they go and get him and bring him to David. You could have never got to God on your own. The Bible says there is none that understandeth. There is none that seeketh after God. You and I could have never got to the King in His throne room on our own. Somebody had to come and get us. And David calls him by name. You know that God knew your name long before you knew His. You know God knew your name while you were using His as a cuss word. He sent the Holy Spirit of God to fetch us.

Now that is not all. Look at verse 7.

2 Samuel 9:7

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.

It was to His glory to pass over a transgression, Proverbs says. Our verse says, "Fear not." He is saying in essence, "I will pass over your transgression for Jonathan's sake," a type of Christ. "And I will restore all you lost in Saul's family. You are now in my family and to be one of my sons and you eat bread at my table continually." Oh, the undying love that God has for you and for me. Do I not wish that my love was undying for Him as His is for me? Do I not wish that every day of my life I woke up and throughout that day I would love Him with all of my heart, with all of my mind and all of my soul as He loves me? Romans 5:8 says:

Romans 5:8

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

We sing, "Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan. Oh, the grace that brought it down to man. Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary." But He did all of that because it was His glory through Christ Jesus to pass over my transgression. He looked beyond my sin and He saw my need. Why can't we do that with others? Why can't we simply see how God looked at us and He saw my sin but He looked beyond my sin and He saw the need that I had? Yet we look at other people, we see their sin and we never see their need. Do you know why? Because we have forgotten today God looked at us and passed over our transgression. It is just that simple.

Look at verse 8. Mephibosheth knew he did not deserve any of this.

2 Samuel 9:8

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

Now there it is. The greatest question of my life that I will never be able to answer. Forget about your issues, forget about my issues, forget your issues with others that do not really matter, forget my nitpicking and things and people that I do not like. Ask yourself this and stay on this till you get an answer. You will never get an answer so I will always keep you right on point. How in the world? Why in the world? What God wanted me to do with this dead dog called Bob Alexander? I am telling you, we have forgotten what we were the day God called us by name when He sent the Holy Spirit of God after us.

People say, "Well, I just do not believe that God could ever send a man to hell." Are you kidding me? We all deserve to be in hell. My question is, I will never figure out why in the world would God ever want to take anybody to heaven, especially me? The answer is grace. The answer is grace. It was to His glory to pass over my transgression through Christ.

VII. The Christian's Life: Fruitfulness and Fellowship

Now look at verse 9, 10 and 11.

2 Samuel 9:9-11

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 always at my table.

11 Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

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.

I want you to understand something. After we get saved and God gives us all He has for us, we have what the Bible says that God wants to produce fruit in your life. This will be in Galatians 5:22-23 with the fruit of the Spirit. But I want you to notice that it is the Holy Spirit of God that does the work, not Mephibosheth.

God's people today are like the farmers that you read about in the news in Kansas and Missouri and Oklahoma. They are farmers just like your Christians, but they have a terrible dilemma. They have crop failure year after year after year. They are going in the hole. They are losing their farms. They are losing everything. Do you know why? Because they have thousands of acres of land, but they cannot bear any fruit to make any money to live. God's people are just like those farmers. Being a farmer does not automatically bring you fruit. Being a Christian does not automatically make you fruitful. You have to realize here that it is the Holy Spirit of God that does the work. I want you to notice, Mephibosheth does not do the work. He is not working in the field. Do you know where he stays? He stays at the table fellowshiping with God and eating the bread. Verse 11. Do you see that? He eats bread at my table continually.

Are you enjoying the fruits of your relationship with God? Are you just always complaining about what you do not have? Are you focusing on all the blessings that God has given you? Are you just so self-centered and selfish that all you see is what you do not have and what you want? The more you try to make it happen, the less it will happen because the verse is very clear. Your job and my job is to sit at the table and "Come and dine, the Master calleth, come and dine." You can feast at Jesus' table anytime. Your job and my job is to get the book and through what you do, the Holy Spirit of God does the work.

Do you know what the issue with some of God's people is today? You have not been showing up for supper. Your diet consists of junk food, not spiritual food. Your diet consists of the things of the world. You are consumed with your job, your career. You are consumed with a relationship. You are consumed with this or with that. You are consumed about what you want to do in life and none of it really concerns anything with God. Many of God's people are eating out of the garbage can of Christianity, the NIV, the ASV, the stuff that is putrid when it comes to God, and wondering why there is never anything in their life, wondering why they are never happy, wondering why they cannot get to the point in their life where they can ever experience the fruit of God in their life. It is because you cannot do it. The Holy Spirit of God has to do it and you have got to put yourself in a certain position for that to happen.

VIII. The King Came Down

Now you have got to know. That is the story. But you have got to know. When all this went down, Mephibosheth was scared to death. Some of you maybe are here today and you know that you are not saved. If you died today, you do not know for sure that you would go to heaven. Sitting in a place like this scares you to death. I understand that. I get it. The only thing I can say to you is what David said to Mephibosheth, "Fear not." Nobody is going to hurt you. Do not ever run away from the time that the Holy Spirit of God comes to fetch you. There is nothing to be afraid of.

I have always thought the fact that the world treats us terrible, the world just beats us six weeks from Sunday, the world will send you to hell and destroy your life. Jesus is the only man in the history of the planet who never did anything wrong to anybody, never hurt anybody, yet nobody wants anything to do with Him. When he heard the news, put yourself in his position today. It is just me and you here. Let us talk for a moment. When he heard the news that David was coming to get him and he knew that he was the enemy of Saul and he knew what Saul had done to David and what God had done to Saul, he thought for sure David was coming to kill him, to settle old scores. He is helpless. He is a cripple. He cannot run. He cannot even walk. He cannot get away.

I can just see it as he is sitting there and somebody had told him, "Hey, I just heard that David is coming to get you and he wants to see you." He is taking you over and he had to have a heart attack. About that time there is a knock on the door, "Open in the name of the king." They come in, they pick him up and the guards, they do not tell you nothing. They are like police officers when they pull you over and ask you this question. You say, "What is this all about?" "Do not worry about it." "Something happen, officer?" "Just get in your car and drive." "Yes sir." Mephibosheth is just saying, "What is wrong? What is going on?" They just say, "I do not know, just come on, you are going with us."

I can just see him. They pick him up and carry him to the king's palace. I just, they walk inside and there are the big doors going into the throne room. He waits there and I guarantee you he is shaking uncontrollably. He knows he is going to die. He knows he deserves to die. He is the grandson of Saul, the enemy of David. He knows as well as he is, David is going to settle an old score. All of a sudden he hears those trumpets blowing, heralding in the king. Those big doors open up and they start to carry him before the throne in the presence of the king. He looks to the left and the right, not looking up but looking around and he sees all the queens and the princes and the nobles and the ladies and the men of king's court all around the king. They bring him right up, right up in front of that throne with the king sitting on it and put him right in front of that throne.

Then something happened that never happened before in history. Something happened that never happened before and has never happened since. Mephibosheth the lame beggar breathing shame is sitting there as a cripple on the floor in front of the throne. David is on that throne and do you know what David did? David got up to the gasp of everybody that was in that room and the king came down to the beggar. I said the king came down to the beggar. There was a day when the angels, the cherubim and the seraphim walked into the throne room and God was not on the throne. He was gone and they looked around and said, "Where did He go?" The Holy Spirit of God says, "He went down to the beggars." Praise God. Oh, praise God there was a day in your life and my life when the King saw you and me as a beggar. Knew we could never get to Him and we were brought by the Holy Spirit of God to His feet and then He left the throne of heaven and came down off that throne and passed over my transgression. Glory to God.

Mephibosheth cannot even look up. He is waiting for that sword to pierce his neck. He is waiting to be killed any moment. He is waiting for the decree from the king. He expected to be cursed into everlasting fire and brimstone because that is what he deserved. That is what you and I deserved. He is praying to God. I was not there. I am telling you I was not there for him but I

went through the same thing as if you did. You just forgot. He is praying what I was praying. "Oh God be merciful to me a sinner." When the king says his name and he opens his eyes he cannot look up but right there in front of him. I know this happened. It is not in the Bible. I know how the Bible works. He could not look up. He opens his eyes and they were standing right there at the feet of the king and he thought to himself those are the most beautiful feet I have ever saw in my life but he was transfixed on the shoes that he wore right on the top of the shoes where the buckles should have been. There were two red rubies and just for a quick second he thought to himself, "That looks like a blood wound in his feet," because there was a day coming when my King had the blood wounds on His feet when He passed over my transgression.

About that time he is shaking uncontrollably. He feels a hand gently touch his filthy head and a voice says, "Fear not, Mephibosheth. I am not going to kill you. You see, I made a promise to a man whose name started with J, Jonathan, Jesus, that I would take care of the household of Saul that was left and I am not going to hurt you and nobody here is going to kill you." The voice says, "Mephibosheth, here is what we are going to do. We are going to get you out of those filthy garments and we are going to wrap you up in fine linen. We are going to clean you up by the washing of the water of the word. Mephibosheth, verse 11, you are now going to be my son. Mephibosheth, verse 10, you are going to eat at my table. You are going to live in my palace with me. You are going to be seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Romans 8 is going to say that, "I am going to adopt you and you are going to become my son." Not only that but verse 9, "I am going to give you an inheritance. All the land that was taken from you now it is all yours again and I will tell you something else, you never have to work another day in your life. Ziba and his sons will do all the work. You just sit here with me at my table, have some more bread."

Mephibosheth can hardly believe his ears. He says, "But why? Why? I am so filthy. My name is breathing shame. I am so dirty. I am so corrupt in everything that I do and on top of that my family, I am your enemy. I am a dog in the sight of the king. Why me?" David looks at him and says, "I will tell you why, Mephibosheth. Why you? It is called grace. It is called grace. Mephibosheth, one time I was not doing too good either and I committed two sins that there was no sacrifice for and I should have been killed. My heavenly Father came down to me and He gave me what was called in the Bible the sure mercies of David. Because He gave me those sure mercies when I deserved to die, I learned my lesson to give grace to others because God gave it to me. Besides, the wisest man that will ever live will write in the future, 'The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.' That is why."

The flood of emotions, you can imagine the flood of emotions. Mephibosheth, the flood of emotions of coming from the fear that he thought he was going to die and then he has heard all this and it is hard for him to imagine. He begins to weep. Tears of joy run down his dirty face and stain his face where the dirt was. He says, "Oh, I am so happy. Grace, grace, amazing grace. I am so happy King David. Thank you so much. I am happy. I have never felt like this in my mind and my heart." He says, "If I had a song in my heart I could just sing." David said, "Well, Mephibosheth, go ahead and sing. In fact, I have got the song for you. One of my boys wrote this and I think it fits the occasion."

"One day the silver cord will break and I no more will sing as now. But oh the joy when I awake within the palace of the King." Say it with me. "For I shall see Him face to face and tell the story saved by His grace. For I shall see Him face to face and tell the story saved by grace."

You see folks, I am the Mephibosheth. There was a time in my life when I was against God. I cannot speak for you. There is a time in my life when I was God's enemy. I cannot speak to you. There was a time in my life when I was in the wrong family that my very name and existence was a shame to a holy God. That my righteousness was like filthy rags and I was hungry and I was destitute and I was thirsty and there was nothing to eat and nothing to drink. I was a beggar begging for the crumbs of this old world. Then God one day sent His Holy Spirit to fetch me. He did to you too, if you are saved today, because we are all Mephibosheth.

The last thing in verse 13 it says:

2 Samuel 9:13

13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet.

I want you to know something. His garments got changed. He got cleaned up. He eats at the king's table but he is still lame on his feet. He is still a sinner. That is the greatest news that I could ever hear. I do not have to be perfect for God to save me. I do not have to reach some goal or standard that God says, "Okay, I accept you now." He accepted me before I did anything. He died for me long before I was born. From the foundation of the world God saw me and He saw you and He put me in Christ. All I had to do was accept Him.

He never got over being lame. He just went from one family to another family. He went from filthiness to cleanliness. He went from being hungry to being filled. He went from a hopeless end to endless hope. He went from out of the darkness into the light all by grace and God passing over his transgression because of a promise that He made to a man whose name started with Jesus Christ in our story, Jonathan. Even though he was still lame on his feet, he was no longer a beggar of the things of this world. He now has an inheritance. He now sits at the king's table as a child of the king, as one of his sons, continually at his table eating his bread and fellowshiping with his new father.

That same grace that God gave us to forgive us is what we should give to others to forgive them in passing over transgressions. It has been said many times and it has been said many ways: "Forgive many things in others. Forgive nothing in yourself." "They who forgive most shall be most forgiven." "It is easier to forgive an enemy than it is to forgive a friend." It has been said that if he sins, he is just a man. If he loves sin, then he is an unsaved man. If he hates sin, then he is a saintly man. But if he forgives sin, he is Jesus Christ. That is what we are to be. Ephesians 4:32 says:

Ephesians 4:32

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

And the discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is to his glory to pass over a transgression.

IX. Conclusion

Now, if you are here this morning and you have never trusted Jesus Christ as your own personal savior, do not let this message get by you. If you are here this morning and you are a child of God and you are struggling in your own world with forgiving others or the ability to get past things in your life, get past yourself. Get back to the day when you did not look too hot. Put yourself in the same position that you want to put others in and pass over the transgression.

I want to say to you this morning, if you are here this morning and you do not know for sure if you died that you would go to heaven, the Holy Spirit of God has come down from the throne today to fetch you. As I am speaking and as I have been speaking, He is walking up and down these aisles and He is woven back and forth and He is pulling on the heartstrings of your heart. Sitting here today, there is no question in my mind, or anybody's mind, that you do not know where you are at this morning. I promise you every man and every woman, saved or lost, knows exactly where you are at because Ziba did the work today. But right now the Holy Spirit of God is calling you. Christ died for you.

Salvation is not complicated, it is not hard, it is simply this. God wanted a creation to have fellowship with Him and love Him. So God created a scenario that was a perfect scenario. But God will not force anybody to love Him. So God gave man the free will choice to disobey God and obviously Adam and Eve, man, did. At that point in time it threw the whole world into disarray, it threw the whole world into sin. Where man's sin entered the world, now sin is passed upon all men and then we were sinners after that point. In spite of that, God looked down and He saw you and me just like He saw Mephibosheth and God made a way for you and me to get out from under the sin death that we all owe. Because you cannot pay it yourself and you can never get to your God yourself. God had the Holy Spirit of God come and get you and God brought you right to that throne and then God got off of that throne and came down to die for you and for me.

If you will trust Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior today, you are not becoming a Baptist, you are not becoming anything, you are becoming God's child by a new birth that takes you just like Mephibosheth out of Saul's family and puts you at the table of God's family. Every head bowed and every eye closed. Grace, grace, amazing grace.

Maybe you are sitting here today, you are a young man or a young lady and you do not know for sure if you died today you would go to heaven to spend an eternity with the Lord. I am not asking if you are saved, everybody is saved. I am not asking if you, I am asking you this. Here is the bottom line, if you died right now are you 100% sure you would go to heaven? That is the only question here today. If you are not, after the message that you heard today, my plea to you would be, make sure, come to the King's table. You and me who were Mephibosheth, come and let the King change your clothes, let Him make you one of His sons, let Him give you that inheritance.

With every head bowed and every eye closed and no one looking around, if you are here this morning and you say, "Bob, I am not sure if I died right now, I would go to heaven." With nobody looking around but me so I can pray more intelligently, would you just lift your hand and say, "Here I am, Bob, pray for me." I will not embarrass you, I will not do anything at all but acknowledge your hand and then I will pray. Anybody? "Here is my hand, I am not sure if I died." Thank you, thank you, thank you buddy. God bless you man, God bless you. I see it in the back, thank you, thank you. Anybody else? I am not sure, I am not sure. Anybody else? This was for you today, this was for you today.