**Kindness**

Text: 2Samuel 9

1. What characteristics of David stand out?

2. What steps did David have to take to find Mephibosheth?

3. Put yourself in David’s position. What reasons do you think David might have had for not being kind to Mephibosheth?

4. If David’s kindness to Mephibosheth was not due to personal affection, what was it based on?

5. Think of a Mephibosheth in your own life (bear in mind that we are all handicapped in some ways). As a Christian, what reasons do you have for showing kindness to that person?

6. In what specific ways did David show kindness to Mephibosheth?

7. In what practical ways can you show kindness to your Mephibosheth?

8. Look now at what happened from Mephibosheth’s point of view. What thoughts or feelings do you think he had when summoned to appear before David?

9. What would he have felt as he heard the words recorded in verse 7?

10. What changes from his previous life would Mephibosheth now experience as someone who was “like one of the king’s sons”?

11. Think of people who have been especially kind to you. In what ways have you benefited from their kindness?

*As Christians we too have been showered with blessings from the King. Spend some time today just thinking about and enjoying the kindness God has shown to you.*

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In other words, the Holy Spirit of God gives baptized believers a spirit that places them in a saved relationship with God and allows them to commune with Him.

When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and put Him on in baptism, we begin a life-long process of transformation and maturation. In describing this process, Jesus said that we enter the “narrow gate” and travel along the “narrow road” (Matt. 7:13-14). Our life on earth becomes a preparation for our eternal life with God. Because we will spend eternity in a spiritual world, we must begin in this life to make the transformation from a physical to a spiritual being. Paul has said that we must "put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:24).

This “new self” is the result of a new way of thinking that is described by Paul as a renewal of the mind (Romans 12:2). In effect, we undergo a spiritual metamorphosis or transformation that indicates we have shifted the focus of our desires from the world to God (1 John 2:15-17). Just as human babies become adults through the process of physical maturation, our spiritual transformation causes us to "become mature" and to "grow up into him who is the Head, that is Christ" (Ephesians 4:13,15). We seek to be "transformed into God's likeness with ever-increasing glory" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

The Christian’s transformation from a worldly to a spiritual being begins with a change in attitude and life style. We see the world and our place in it from a different perspective. Our new relationship with Christ will lead to a change in our relationship with many of the people around us. We take a new look at our habits and acquaintances and make a distinction between the people of the world and the people of God. The key to this change is given by Paul in Galatians 5:16: "live by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature."

We should realize that our own human effort does not have the power to transform us into God’s likeness. Jesus said, "apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). Our spiritual transformation can occur only by the power of God as His Holy Spirit works in us. We are "strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10), and it is only in His power that we can succeed.

The Measure of Our Spirituality

On our Christian journey, it is helpful to have markers and guideposts along the way to indicate our direction and progress. But how can we know that we have been transformed, that we are maturing as Christians and leading a spirit-filled life? We know that Jesus has said, “God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). But what indicates that we are taking on more of the holiness of God (Heb. 12: 10, 14)

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