



Carstairs-Bancroft United Church

October 14, 2021

DAILY ENCOURAGEMENT
DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC
By Rev. Maria Szabone Berces



Source: Our Daily Bread

Beloved Carstairs Bancroft United Church Members,

Today's Inspiration in one sentence

“Don't be afraid,” David said to him, “for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan.” (2 Samuel 9:7)

Did You Know?

- 1 and 2 **Samuel** are named after the person God used to establish monarchy in Israel. Samuel not only anointed both Saul and David, Israel's first two kings, but he also gave definition to the new order of God's rule over Israel. Samuel's role as God's representative in this period of Israel's history is close to that of Moses since he, more than any other person, provided for covenant continuity in the transition from the rule of the judges to that of the monarchy.

- 1 and 2 Samuel were originally one book. It was divided into two parts by the translators of the Septuagint (the pre-Christian Greek translation of the Old Testament). This division was subsequently followed in the Latin Vulgate, c. AD 400, and by modern versions.

- Who the author was cannot be known, since the book itself gives no indication of his identity. Whoever he was, he doubtless had access to records of the life and times of Samuel, Saul and David. Scholars date these books sometime after Israel was divided into the northern and southern kingdoms in about 930 BC.

- 1 Samuel relates God's establishment of a political system in Israel headed by a human king. 2 Samuel depicts David as true (though imperfect) representative of the ideal theocratic king.

(The NIV Study Bible; 1-2 Samuel)

Personal Insight

In my experience, without the close and intimate connection with our Creator God, we can easily slide into the feeling of being 'underdogs' as we face our daily challenges. Is this a normal human condition? Does it have to be this way?

When we take time to look at the reports of Jesus' life, we can see how his connectedness to God through prayer made him strong and confident. Despite that He was born to accomplish a very difficult, out-of-human-concept, and painful mission. Even though He didn't own an established home on this earth. As He put it: **“Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”** (Matthew 8:20) Despite that He knew what kind of death he was going to suffer, and before his death He was **“overwhelmed with sorrow”** (Matthew 26:37)

And now, **“In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.”** (Ephesians 3:12) He prepared room for us in the Heavenly Father's eternal home, and for his sake we are neither underdogs nor orphans any longer.

Grace and Peace to You All,

Rev. Maria



At the King's Table

So, Mephibosheth ate at David's table like one of the king's sons.

2 Samuel 9:11

READ 2 Samuel 9:6–13

"He'll live," the vet announced, "but his leg will have to be amputated." The stray mongrel my friend had brought in had been run over by a car. "Are you the owner?" There would be a hefty surgery bill, and the puppy would need care as it recovered. "I am now," my friend replied. Her kindness has given that dog a future in a loving home.

Mephibosheth saw himself as a "dead dog," unworthy of favor (2 Samuel 9:8). Being lame in both feet due to an accident, he was dependent on others to protect and provide for him (see 4:4). Furthermore, after the death of his grandfather, King Saul, he probably feared that David, the new king, would order all enemies and rivals to the throne killed, as was the common practice of the time.

Yet, out of love for his friend Jonathan, David ensured that Jonathan's son Mephibosheth would always be safe and cared for as his own son (9:7). In the same way, we who were once God's enemies, marked for death, have been saved by Jesus and given a place with Him in heaven forever. That's what it means to eat at the banquet in the kingdom of God that Luke describes in his gospel (Luke 14:15). Here we are—the sons and daughters of a King! What extravagant, undeserved kindness we've received! Let's draw near to God in gratitude and joy. – By **Karen Kwek**

REFLECT & PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank You for saving me and giving me a place at Your table forever. Remind me that I'm Your dear child, and help me to always praise and trust You. Amen.

When are you likely to forget that God protects and cares for you? How could 2 Samuel 9:6–13 encourage you during such times?

SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

David made a covenant with his best friend Jonathan (1 Samuel 20:12–17) that even after Jonathan's death, David would treat his family with covenantal love and unflinching kindness (Hebrew *hesed*, v. 14). Second Samuel 9:6–13 records how David, having become king, now fulfills that promise to Jonathan. As the heir to Saul's throne, Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son and Saul's grandson, ought to have been killed under the new regime. Instead, David gave Mephibosheth all of Saul's land and wealth and appointed servants to look after him. He even honored him as if he were a prince—one of David's own sons. – By **K. T. Sim**

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