

David's Dramatic Act Of Kindness

What do you think about in your discretionary time?

David thought about a house for God, 2 Sam 7:1-3

David thought about a promise he made long ago, 9:1.

He has sworn *hesed* to Jonathan in perpetuity (1 Sam 20:14-17; cf 1 Sam 23:18; 24:21-22)

But neither his own prosperity, nor the absence of any trace of Saul's legitimate male descendants, made him forget his ancient oath to Jonathan. Years had not weakened his love, his sufferings at Saul's hands had not embittered it. His elevation had not lifted him too high to see the old days of lowliness, and the dear memory of the self-forgetting friend whose love had once been an honour to the shepherd lad.¹

The above promise was a promise made 15-20 years ago.

David is God-like: He keeps his promises even though time has elapsed. God's promises don't have a shelf-life, and neither should yours.

David expressed the same hesed to Mephibosheth that God expressed to him.

David made effort to find out, 9:2-5

Mephibosheth had done nothing to merit David's favor, he was "unworthy," 9:8, 6, furthermore, he knew David knew he was a son of a rival dynasty. He considered it a possibility that he might die when he appeared before David

Yet David provided protection

Kindness = hesed, v 7

David provided provision

Land, v 7 and 9-10

¹ <http://www.preceptaustin.org/mephibosheth.htm>

David provided position²

You will always eat at my table, 7, 11b, 13

Because of being crippled, he had no status. David, in kindness, granted great status.

David doesn't simply spare Mephibosheth's life, he heaps great goodness upon him. David's kindness goes from survival to sustenance.

David who had been a recipient of God's *hesed*, now was a giver of God's *hesed*, 9:3

You should be like that!

Are there any promises you made years ago that need fulfilled?

Have you ever done what David did to anybody who was unworthy?

Matthew 5:43-48, Luke 6:27

² The threefold "p" here is from Dale Ralph Davis, *Out of Every Affliction*, p. 105.