

# FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT SERIES

## 2 SAMUEL 9

### KINDNESS

---

The friendship between David and Jonathan, the son of David's mortal enemy, Saul, was powerful and loyal to the end. Just before they parted for the last time, David swore by his love to Jonathan that as long as both their houses existed, he would show kindness to Jonathan's descendants. This was a tremendous commitment because ordinarily when a king came to power, he banished all who had come before him. Many years later, David reigned over all of Israel. In 2 Samuel 9 his promise to Jonathan is about to be fulfilled.

1. What are some reasons people have for being kind to others?
2. Read 2 Samuel 9. What reasons do you think David might have had for not being kind to Mephibosheth?
3. If David's kindness to Mephibosheth was not due to personal affection, on what was it based?
4. Think of a Mephibosheth in your own life (bear in mind that we are all "cripples" in some ways). As a Christian, what reasons do you have for showing kindness to that person?
5. In what specific ways did David show kindness to Mephibosheth?
6. In what practical ways can you show kindness to your Mephibosheth?
7. 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?
8. What would he have felt as he heard the words recorded in verse 7?

9. What changes from his previous life would Mephibosheth now experience as someone who was “like one of the king’s sons”? (Draw on your imagination as well as on what is in the passage.)
  
10. Think of people who have been especially kind to you. In what ways have you benefited from their kindness?
  
11. As Christians we too have been showered with blessings from the King. Jot some of these blessings down and then spend some time basking in the kindness God has shown you.