

THE KINDNESS OF THE KING: RESTORING DIGNITY AND BELONGING



RESTORING

The act of bringing a person or relationship back to their original state of value and purpose.

DIGNITY

the inherent quality of being worthy of honour,
respect, and self-worth.

BELONGING

the feeling of being accepted, valued, and safe
exactly as you are, without having to hide parts
of your identity or change to "fit in."

**WHEN WE SEE PEOPLE THE
WAY GOD SEES THEM, IT
CHANGES HOW WE TREAT
THEM.**

A large crowd of people is shown from behind, their heads and shoulders visible. They are all dark in color, except for one person in the center who is glowing with a bright yellow light. The background is dark and out of focus.

**DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU
BELONG?**

“DAVID AND MEPHIBOSHETH”

2 SAMUEL 9



MEPHIBOSHETH

means "from the mouth of shame" or "one who scatters shame."

LO-DEBAR

In Hebrew it means "no pasture, no word, no thing."

- No pasture = a dry, hopeless place with no food or future
- No word = a place where it's empty and forgotten.

LAME IN BOTH FEET

In the Bible, feet often mean your walk or your life journey. Meaning he couldn't fix his own life or earn his way back.

“DEAD DOG”

In their culture, it's the most worthless thing you could be. It shows he had no dignity left. He saw himself as worthless.

“DON'T BE AFRAID”

The first thing David says to him. David came with kindness.

FOR JONATHAN'S SAKE

Mephibosheth did nothing to earn this. David did it because he loved Jonathan. In the same way, God is kind to us not because we're good, but because He loves Jesus - and we belong to Jesus.

EATING AT THE KING'S TABLE

In those days, to eat at the king's table meant:

- Belonging - you are now family
- Acceptance - your enemies are now my enemies
- Covered shame - with the long tablecloth, no one can see your lame feet. Your weakness is hidden when you're with the king.

HOW DAVID RESTORED DIGNITY AND BELONGING

1. SEEK the forgotten (Dignity)

David asked,

"Is there anyone still left...that I may show Kindness?"

David chose to remember.

Luke 19:10

"For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost."

1. SEEK the forgotten (Dignity)

Ways to seek

- Sit with people you notice are alone
- Check on a friend
- Look for someone missing in the function

2. SEE past the label and condition (Dignity)

Ziba said, "There is a son of Jonathan, crippled in both feet, living in Lo-debar."

Everyone else saw:

disabled, worthless, from the wrong family, living in a nowhere place.

David saw:

son of Jonathan, worthy of kindness.

2. SEE past the label and condition (Dignity)

1 Samuel 16:7

"People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

2. SEE past the label and condition (Dignity)

Ways to see past

- stop defining people by their worst moment, their disability, their past, or their gossip
- stop seeing them as "the annoying one, the lazy one, the broken one"
- Ask about their story before you judge their situation

3. SPEAK peace to fear (Belonging)

Mephibosheth came in scared, expecting death. David's first words were, "Don't be afraid."

Isaiah 41:10

"Do not fear, for I am with you... I will strengthen you and help you."

3. SPEAK peace to fear (Belonging)

Ways to speak peace to fear

- make people feel safe before we try to fix them
- With your actions: Put your phone down, make eye contact, keep their secret, don't laugh at their vulnerability.
- Don't start with advice or Bible verses. Start with presence.

4. RESTORE what was lost (Dignity)

David gave back all of Saul's land. He didn't just feel sorry for him; he gave him back what belonged to his family.

Psalms 23:3

"He restores my soul."

4. RESTORE what was lost (Dignity)

Ways to restore

- **Restore opportunity:** If someone lost their confidence, invite them to help, serve, lead a small part.
- **Restore voice:** In a group, say "We haven't heard from you yet, what do you think?"
- **Restore practical needs:** Help with a resume, give a ride, share food, help with schoolwork.

5. *GIVE* belonging, not just help (Belonging)

David didn't send him back to Lo-debar with land. He said, "You will always eat at my table like one of my sons."

Ephesians 2:19

"You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens... members of his household."

5. *GIVE* belonging, not just help (Belonging)

Ways to give

- Don't just help once. Invite them consistently.
"You're always welcome at our table"
- Protect their dignity when they're not in the room.
- Make it family, not charity. Say "We need you here"
not "We feel sorry for you."

6. HELP them reflect the kindness

Mephibosheth had a young son named Mica. That son would grow up not in Lo-debar, but in the palace. Because Mephibosheth received kindness, his whole family line was changed.

2 Corinthians 5:18

"God... gave us the ministry of reconciliation."

- We receive it to give it.

6. HELP them reflect the kindness

Ways to help

- Tell them: "God has been kind to me, so I want to be kind to you - and I know you can be kind to someone else too."
- Invite them to serve WITH you, not just be served BY you.
- Celebrate when they show kindness to someone else. That's how the cycle continues.

SEEK

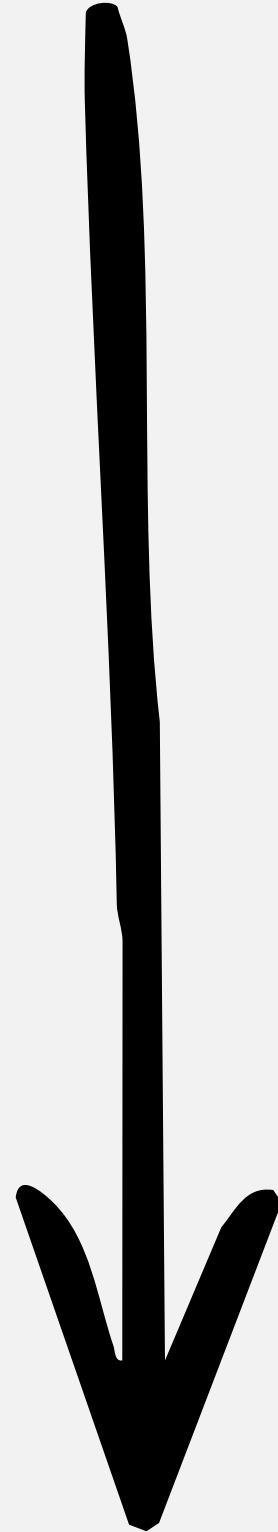
SEE

SPEAK

RESTORE

GIVE

HELP



RECEIVE HIS GOODNESS AND
REFLECT IT TO OTHERS

END.