Notes for “Wrestling with our Worth”

-March 2, 2025

* Introduction
* Summary of Story
  + David determines to honor his promise to Jonathan and show goodness to Saul’s family
  + David owns all that was Saul’s due to defeat of Ish-bosheth and marrying Michal
  + David summons Ziba, Saul’s former servant
  + Ziba informs Daniel of heir, Jonathan’s son, Mephibosheth
  + Mephibosheth is living in self-imposed exile with Machir
  + Mephibosheth is lame in both feet following accident with nurse
  + Mephibosheth is summoned
  + He prostrates himself and identifies himself as David’s servant
  + David declares that he is restoring all that was Saul’s to Mephibosheth
  + Mephibosheth asks, “Why would look on a dead dog such as I?”
  + David declares that he will have a perpetual place at the royal table
  + Ziba is instructed to oversee his sons and servants working the land for Mephibosheth’s family
* Focus on two parts
  + Considerations about self-worth through Mephibosheth’s identification of self
  + Communication about the goodness of God through David’s example

1. Misunderstood worth carries grave consequences.
   1. Pride

* Sinful human tendency is to think too highly of ourselves
* Terrible danger is that tendency
* Prov. 13:10
* Prov. 11:2
* Prov. 16:18
* Prov. 6
* Misappropriating our worth leads to feel that we deserve more
  1. Pain and Paralysis
* While some exaggerate their abilities, others magnify their lowliness
* Failing to see ourselves how God sees us can lead to an unwillingness to attempt anything for Him

1. Our experiences can impact our estimations of worth.

* Mephibosheth’s life experiences likely influenced how he felt and presented himself
* There are two predominant physical influences in his life
  + Physical infirmity
    - We can develop impairs or elevated sense of self based on physical limitations or abilities
    - Some thought that physical infirmity was a sign of God’s judgment
  + Familial history
    - Likely some hesitancy due to his genealogy
    - Normal for surviving males of deposed kings to be killed

1. Our estimations of worth must be balanced by the wisdom of God.

* We must balance humility in regard to our personal abilities with confidence in who God declares us to be
* In and of myself, I am faulty and frail.
* My goodness and righteousness is as filthy rags
* I cannot boast in my personal strength or accomplishments
* I can find confidence and value in who God declares and demonstrates me to be
  + I am created by God
  + I am created for God
  + I am created in God’s image
  + God paid the price of my redemption at the cost of Jesus’s life
  + God continues to watch over me
* My value must balance these two aspects
* Look at Hebrew word “anavah”
  + Shortly defined as humility
  + Hebrew meaning to “occupy your God-given space in the world”
  + Not thinking too highly of yourself while not downplaying God’s presence
* Hasidic Jewish teaching of two scraps of paper
  + “I am but dust and ashes”
  + “For my sake the world was created”

1. Our reward is not earned, but due to the excellence of the King.

* David’s invitation to Mephibosheth to a place of honor and belonging had nothing to do with Mephibosheth’s abilities
* There is a beautiful parallel where David’s goodness mirrors the goodness of God to invite us into His presence to dine at His table
* Our person and presence is meant to speak to His greatness, not ours.

1. Our understanding of worth must be extended to those around us.

* David’s offer to Mephibosheth was something he experienced personally
* David went from a shepherd boy, to a harping to sooth a troubling king, to a successful military leader yet he was given a place at Saul’s table
* David called himself a “dead dog” before Mephibosheth ever did
* His extension of grace came because he experienced grace
* We must show the same understanding of the infinite intrinsic value of all around us