

Oct 25th 2009: Guess Who's Coming To Dinner: 2 Sam 9:1-13

How many remember film....Guess Who's Coming to Dinner ???

Matt and Christina Drayton are a couple whose attitudes are challenged when their daughter brings home a fiancé who is black.

About 3,000yrs before that film was released in 1968.....I'm sure.....there was a day

When a group..... gathered around the meal table in the palace of king David

wrestled with similar reactions.....**When David said to them.....Guess who's**

IT's....Mephibosheth.....the grandson of my great enemy....who would have been next in line

A crippled mess of a man.....He's been living in the house of another...in a place

..as far removed from Jerusalem as possible

• **WELL HE'S COMING TO DINNER**

And not just FOR ONE VISIT EITHER!!!!..... **he will** have a permanent place

In fact.....he will be treated just like one of you.....Like one of my sons

Imagine the stunned silence that would have greeted such an announcement

Silence from the sons.....

- **From Absalom**.....Strong...Handsome...Proud---lead a revolt against
- **Amon**.....surly and self centred.....who demanded as his right.....rape his half sister
- **Adonijah** who David never corrected(1 Kings).....rose up when David was old.....

Silence from the trusted advisors.....

These long term supporters of.....who had fought with him.....**Who** felt...that theyon the throne

Men such as General Joab.....who trusted no one.....and with Adonijah was to betray

• **All these people and others.....who had the right to eat.....**

would not have taken kindly to another.....coming to join their select group.....

**For I'm sure many....forgotten.....that they there only
...because of the Grace of God towards David their king**

And Im just as surethat in contrast to them

David himself.....never forgot that he was only king....because of God's kindness

→**Remember that prayer** we looked at last Sunday.....How it begins with David saying to God

***"Who am I, O Sovereign LORD, and what is my family,
that you have brought me this far?"***

and I am just as certain....that because David never forgot what God had done for him
..neither was he ever able to forget the part.... friendshipplayed in God's plan

And so it was....he sought out the oportto rescue the son.....because of his covenant
And In so doing ...David has given us.....a precious illustration of the Grace of God

You see Mephibosheth was an outcast.....kings presence

Being the grandson of the past king.....**He** would have expected to be sought out and killed
He was a threat to David's rule.....and in those days threats were quickly disposed of

- **He was also a cripple**.....for when he was just 5 years

He was useless....A burden on society.....living in another's house...poverty stricken
An outcast from the presence of the king.....Without a future and a hope

SO

.. he was brought before the king his heart was full of fear.....and he bowed low before him
And according to 2 Sam 9:5-9...the conversation went like this

With David saying to Mephibosheth:-

***"Don't be afraid, I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father
Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather
Saul, and you will always eat at my table."***

With Mephibosheth replying:

"What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?"

Then David responded.....but not with words...../.He answered with actions

He did for Mephibosheth what he had promised: **He gave him a place**.....a position....inheritance

- **It is not hard to see the story of our salvation here**

Think of what we were we before Goddrew us to Himself.....and by His blood welcomed us

Between Mephibosheth and David....there was the gulf of enmity....poverty.....disability....position
And between us and God....the gulf that Grace has bridged.....is so much greater

***Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan!
 Oh, the grace that brought it down to man!
 Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary!
 Mercy there was great, and grace was free;
 Pardon there was multiplied to me;
 There my burdened soul found liberty at Calvary.***

So great.....that it should never be taken for granted**or** treated with disdain
 ...or hung on to...as though it were a gift for only the select few

- **Think back for a moment to those sitting around David's table**

They were there because God had made David King

They were there because it pleased David to have them there

Yet I'm sure that when Mephibosheth was carried into the room.....they despised him
 Probably talked about him.....Saw him as the outsider and made him feel that way

I reckon:

Some found it impossible to forgive him.....for the sins of his grandfather Saul....enemy

Others would have been threatened by him.....while others looked down on him ...disability

I'm sure that they all believed themselves to be so much more worthy...to sit...than he was

And unfortunately.....such behavior can still....just as easily permeate a church fellowship
Iv'e known of churches where new comers are subjected to a spiritual snobbery

If they have a lot in common.....OR if they have something.....useful
 Then they are welcomed

But if they are different.....If perhaps they have problems and difficulties
 New to the system and don't know how to act like everyone else.....

THEY are left hiding behind a mug....because.....no one wants to put effort into....

It's a problem that existed in the early church.....according to James
 Who said in James 2:1-4

1My friends, if you have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, you won't treat some people better than others. 2Suppose a rich person wearing fancy clothes and a gold ring comes to one of your meetings. And suppose a poor person dressed in worn-out clothes also comes. 3You must not give the best seat to the one in fancy clothes and tell the one who is poor to stand at the side or sit on the floor. 4That is the same as saying that some people are better than others, and you would be acting like a crooked judge.

As I've prepared this.....I've been made to really look at myself....my attitudes...& to ask the ?
Am I treating others as Jesus in His grace treats me
Am I acting towards the outsider.....especially those who are different.....who have needs
 Who are crippled in some way.....emotionally.....AS Jesus would treat them

Are our homes.....our home groups.....our hearts.....as open as we would like to think they are?
For in the end.....we all here by the same almighty gift of God's grace

Then finally there is another group in this story.....that we are like
 And that's the servants.....that king David sent out:-

In 2 Sam 9:1 David asks a question of all his servants:

"Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

And his servants began to look

And they located Ziba.....who had been a servant of.....**and they** brought him to David

And then we read in v3

The king asked, "Is there no one still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?"

Can you sense the passion....fueled by love....that David has

And surely it is with such a passion....that God the Father says to us....His servants

"Is there anyone still left of the house of Man to whom I can show kindness for my Name's sake?"

And we can't say "NO".....Which means we are compelled to go

And even if we are not the best of servants...in our own eyes

We are just to spread the news.....to the scared....to the poor.....to those bound by sin
To the those who are lost in their sin.....about a Father who has so much to offer them

And we are to bring them in someway into the presence of the King.....

We help them approach Him

**Because it is the King who takes them...from an outcast....and places them as sons
At His table....for such is His love...Is His Grace....Is His faithfulness**