

## **Mephibosheth, Crippled at the Fault of Another (Special Needs Sunday)**

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Text: 2 Samuel 4:4, 9:1-13

Mephibosheth was the son of Jonathan and grandson of King Saul.

King David (the same David who killed Goliath, then grew up to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> King of Israel)- the Prophet Samuel anointed David as God's chosen King while Saul was the King. This did not make David popular with King Saul. Trouble developed to the point that David and Saul were on different sides of a civil war.

To complicate matters, Saul's son, Jonathan, was David's dearest friend. In fact, Jonathan and David were so loyal to each other that they made a covenant together. They promised that no matter what happened they would always look after each other's families. The civil war continued until finally both Saul and Jonathan died in a battle at Jezreel.

In the chaotic days that followed, all the descendants of Saul were killed. But in this case, there was one lone survivor: a young boy named Mephibosheth, who was a son of Jonathan.

Mephibosheth, an obscure Old Testament character, gives us a picture of God's grace to sinners.

**2 Samuel 4-** Tells us that after David was firmly established on his Throne, he remembered his promise to Jonathan. He found young Mephibosheth, the only surviving son of Jonathan and the grandson of his old enemy Saul, and he restored Mephibosheth to the Palace of the King.

**As we look at the restoration of Mephibosheth, we'll see that his story represents what God has done for each of us. We were all crippled by a fall.**

**As it pertains to special needs, there are many things that can be considered disabilities.**

- There are physical disabilities, such as Mephibosheth
- There are intellectual disabilities.
- There are emotional disabilities.
- There are spiritual disabilities, and all of us have those.

**According to scripture, we were all born with a sin nature. That was the fall at the hands of another.**

## **2 Samuel 4:4**

*Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who was lame in his feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel; and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth.*

We have the same basic problem Mephibosheth had. He was crippled in both feet. We are crippled when it comes to pleasing God on the basis of our own deeds. Like Mephibosheth, we were all crippled by a fall. But the good news is that, like Mephibosheth, we were SOUGHT BY THE KING.

## **2 Samuel 9:1-3**

*Now David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" And there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "At your service!" Then the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan who is lame in his feet."*

At least Mephibosheth knew he was officially an enemy of the King. He knew there was nothing he could do to make things right. Unless the King came and sought him out, he was doomed to hide all his life. And like Mephibosheth, who was SOUGHT BY THE KING, we have been FOUND IN A FAR COUNTRY.

David asked a servant named Ziba where he could find Mephibosheth. She explained he was hiding out in a country called Lo Debar. Lo Debar was a city east of the Jordan River. The whole area is a barren wasteland. The literal meaning of Lo Debar is "the place of no bread." Mephibosheth was hiding out in a desolate place. David did not wait to go and find him.

**We need to be reminded that every one of us are at the mercy of the Lord Jesus to take care of us. We are all crippled at the fault of someone before us. We were all born of a sinful nature, and need the King to come and look for us. David had such a love for Mephibosheth's dad, Jonathan, that he wanted to find him and show him kindness.**

## **2 Samuel 9:2-8**

*And there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "At your service!" Then the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan who is lame in his feet." So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Indeed he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar." Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar. Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, "Mephibosheth?" And he*

*answered, "Here is your servant!" So David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually." Then he bowed himself, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon a dead dog as I?"*

Mephibosheth didn't think much of himself. He asked, "Why do you want to show kindness to such a dog as I?" The 15 sons of Ziba and the 22 servants were to work the land and serve Mephibosheth. And Mephibosheth would eat from the king's table. Even sitting at the king's table, he will still be lame. God did not take away his disability but gave him favor in spite of it.

**The church has a desire to start a special needs ministry, not just a class.**

**We call this church the place of Hope. There is only one reason that we can call it that- the God of whose house this is.**

**There is no one here that is better than the other.**

**We are a body.**

**In the body, there are some parts that are stronger, and some not as strong.**

**We work together to make sure that both parts work together.**

**We are all fallen at the hands of another.**

**We all need for someone to pick us up, and that person is none other than the Lord Jesus.**