

2 Samuel 9: 1- 10

King David and Mephibosheth

Saul had been the king of Israel, but due to his own disobedience, the kingdom was taken from him, and David was anointed by the Lord to be the new king of Israel. Over the years, David and Saul's son Jonathan had become close friends, with a sworn friendship in the name of the Lord. In an intense battle, the Philistines had killed Saul and his sons (1 Samuel 31). Although the tradition of the day was for the new king to destroy all the descendants of the old king, David had a special commitment to find and protect any descendants of his friend Jonathan.

The only descendant of Jonathan that David could find was a crippled child named Mephibosheth, crippled years ago when he was dropped by his nurse trying to help him escape danger (2 Samuel 4: 4).

“[King] David asked, ‘Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?’ The king asked, ‘Is there no one still alive from the house of Saul to whom I can show God’s kindness?’ Ziba [a servant of Saul] answered the king, ‘There is still a son of Jonathan; he is lame in both feet.’ So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel.

When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor. David said, ‘Mephibosheth!’ ‘At your service,’ he replied. ‘Don’t be afraid,’ David said to him, ‘for 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.’

Mephibosheth bowed down and said, ‘What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?’ Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul’s steward, and said to him, ‘I have given your master’s grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master’s grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table.’ ”

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Can you imagine the shock that must have filled Mephibosheth’s heart when King David’s chariots arrived in his front yard? Imagine how surprised Mephibosheth must have been to learn that this king not only meant him no harm, but this king was intent upon keeping him safe and providing him a seat at the king’s table for the rest of his life! Likewise, if we do not know King Jesus, when He arrives in OUR front yard for the first time, we may experience a shock to OUR heart! This King Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and He loved us so much, even in our crippled state of sin, that He died for us on a cruel cross, and rose again to pay the ultimate price for our salvation. Indeed, Jesus is intent upon restoring us to abundant lives at HIS table! How then should we live???

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