

Eating at the King's Table

2 Samuel 9

Introduction:

1. This chapter contains the heartwarming story of David and Mephibosheth. It all started when, one day, King David decided to see if there was any relatives left of the old king, King Saul.
2. Typically, new kings wanted to find and kill anybody who was left of the former king's house. But this was not the case at all.
3. David wanted to find them so that he could show them kindness. Why? For Jonathan's sake (vs. 1). Jonathan was King Saul's son, and David's best friend. Jonathan was dead, but David wanted to do something nice in his memory.
4. It ends up that they can only find one person – it was one of Jonathan's sons. His name was Mephibosheth, and he was lame on both feet. He was crippled. vs. 3
5. This young man was in a totally alienated position before David sought him. Because of his association with the former regime, in normal cases he would have been considered an enemy of the throne. Mephibosheth in and of himself had no hope.
6. Yet, this man was taken from an alienated position and restored fully to the king, and was given an exalted position at the king's table (vs. 5-7, 11, 13). Wow! What a story.
7. But, did you know that if you have placed your faith in Christ, you have basically the same story? Every person can overcome his or her alienated position from God Almighty, and find total acceptance with the King of kings. We can eat at the King's table!
8. How? Let's examine this story and make application to our lives.

First, we must accept the fact of our alienation.

1. Just like Mephibosheth, we were born into the wrong family.
 - He was born into the house of Saul. Saul was, of course, a picture of Satan - full of rebellion and disobedience to God. Saul and his family were rejected by God because of their sin and rebellion. Mephibosheth was born into a rejected family.
 - But guess what - so were all of us (not physically, but spiritually)! The Bible teaches that all of us were born into Adam's family (Romans 5:12), and Satan was our father (John 8:44). We were children of disobedience. Ephesians 2:2
 - Like Mephibosheth, we were alienated from God because we were born into the wrong family.
2. Just like Mephibosheth, we were crippled from a fall.
 - Mephibosheth was lame on both feet. He could not walk.
 - The first man, Adam, experienced a fall in the Garden of Eden. We call it the fall of man. Adam passed that fallen nature down to mankind. Paul said, "*By man came death...in Adam all die.*" 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

- We experienced a fall in Adam. We have been crippled spiritually by a fall. Romans 3:23, 6:23
 - We cannot achieve or attain heaven by pulling ourselves up by our own bootstraps through our own self-effort. We've been crippled by a fall.
3. Just like Mephibosheth, we had nowhere to go.
 - He lived in Lo-debar (vs. 4-5). This means "no pasture." Mephibosheth was left to scour barren, dry wasteland to try to meet his needs.
 - What a description this is of this present, evil world! It promises people pleasure, peace, and prosperity, but it can do nothing to remedy our sin problem and give us peace with God. The world can do nothing to fill the innermost spiritual needs of our soul.
 4. Just like Mephibosheth, what an alienated position we were in. We were born into the wrong family, crippled from a fall, with nowhere to go.

Second, we must realize that mercy is being offered from the King.

1. David went seeking for Mephibosheth. vs. 3-5
 - David called for the servant (Ziba), and sent him out to find Mephibosheth. David made the first move. Without David taking the initiative, Mephibosheth would have remained in an alienated position.
 - This reminds me of 2,000 years ago, when God sent the Son into this world. Why did God the Father do this? 1 John 4:9-10 provides the answer - *"That we might live!"*
 - You may wonder, "Does God love me? Does God want me in His family?" My friend, God has already made the first move. Christ gave Himself a ransom for all on the cross. He said, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." John said that Jesus was *"...the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world."*
 - God has sent His Son and given His Word to seek you, and invite you to His table!
 - Mephibosheth could have rejected David's invitation, but how foolish that would have been. How foolish for us to reject God's invitation.
2. David accepted Mephibosheth just the way he was.
 - Notice Mephibosheth's words in vs. 8. But notice David's words in vs. 7. Mephibosheth was crippled, yet David took him in.
 - Some people think, "God would never want me or accept me in His family. I'm too bad. I'm too unlovable. I've done too many sinful things." Paul said that *"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."*
Illustration: Maniac of Gadara – Jesus passed by!
 - Ziba said, "David, there's one son, but he's crippled." David said, "Go get him and fetch him to me. I want him at my table!"
3. David showed Mephibosheth kindness for Jonathan's sake. vs. 1, 7
 - David didn't do this because of what Mephibosheth had to offer him. He did it because of Jonathan, his best friend. They had made a covenant (1 Samuel 18:3), and because of that covenant David showed Mephibosheth kindness.

- Two thousand years ago, another covenant was made between God the Father and the Son. It was sealed through the blood that Jesus shed on the cross for our sins. This covenant provides for the forgiveness of sins to all those who will place their faith in Christ and what He has done.
- Just like David had mercy on Mephibosheth because of Jonathan, God the Father has mercy on us, and receives us based on that covenant made on the cross at Calvary. Ephesians 4:32 (“*for Christ’s sake*”); Colossians 1:14

In Conclusion:

- Mephibosheth was shown mercy by the king, but it didn’t stop there. It wasn’t simply that he received mercy instead of judgment from the king. He also received an exalted position from David.
 1. David restored to Mephibosheth all the land of Saul. vs. 7
 - Through Christ, God has restored to me all that I lost in Adam. In Adam, I lost life, in Christ, I have gained life. In Adam, I lost fellowship with God, in Christ, I have been made acceptable to God, and can now live daily in His presence.
 2. David had someone provide for Mephibosheth all that he needed. vs. 9-10
 - Just like David sent servants to do the work for Mephibosheth, God sent His Holy Spirit to indwell me and do the work of God through me!
 - I don’t have to serve God through my own fleshly effort. Colossians 1:29
 3. David gave Mephibosheth a place at the king’s table. vs. 13
 - If you are saved today, God has given you an exalted position in Christ. Ephesians 2:6
 - You were once alienated with no hope, but now you are seated in heavenly places for all eternity!