

A Seat at the Table: Mephibosheth
2 Samuel 9:1-13

I. Intro

- A. Today a story of the kindness of the King
- B. David was a revered king and was powerful
- C. Saul had been defeated, and the custom of the day was to kill the entire family of the previous king, anyone who had claim to the throne.
- D. Mephibosheth was the last remaining family member of Saul, grandson of Saul, Son of Jonathan.

II. Text

- A. Characters:
 - 1. David: King, chosen by God
 - 2. Mephibosheth:
 - a) Dropped as a child and remains crippled
 - b) Seen as second class and family of the former king
 - c) Probably scared of what was to come.
- B. Verses 1-5: David seeks out Mephibosheth
 - 1. The King is seeking out the grandson of the previous king.
 - 2. Real world problems for the former family: death because of your family
 - 3. But the KING is seeking him for a different reason.
- C. Verses 6-8: Mephibosheth and David meet
 - 1. David loved Jonathan, and attempted to serve Saul well
 - 2. David didn't choose his anointing, but God chose him.
- D. Verses 9-11: David acts
 - 1. David puts the plan into action
 - 2. David fulfills the promise
- E. Verses 12-13: The Blessing of Mephibosheth
 - 1. Mephibosheth has a seat at the table
 - 2. He has land and importance.

III. Point

- A. What we deserve
 - 1. The culture and context we are working in now is different, but the Spiritual application remains.
 - 2. Mephibosheth, according to culture and context, would have been considered an enemy, but David gave him a blessing.
 - 3. What we deserve is God's judgment, but we are given God's favor.
 - a) Romans 3:23: all have sinned
 - b) Romans 6:23: we've earned separation
 - c) John 3:16-17: God's gift to us is eternal life, Christ didn't come to condemn, we were already condemned.
- B. What we are offered
 - 1. We are offered a place at the table
 - 2. Mephibosheth saw his situation and recognized he had no worth or power.
 - a) He had lived in fear because he was from the wrong family
 - b) He had lived in disgrace, because he was not able bodied
 - c) He had no hope, because the world (culture and context) didn't give him hope
 - 3. He was offered a place at the king's table!
 - a) This may seem like a minor thing, but it was a huge offer.
 - b) That which culture had cast aside, that which tradition did not allow, was now invited to the place of honor.
 - 4. We are being offered a place at the kings table!
 - a) What culture and context declared to be right in that age, was ignored by the king.

- b) That which we deserve in our spiritual reality, is overcome by the cross and resurrection.
 - c) We may be deserving of hell, but we are offered salvation.
- C. What we must do
1. Romans 10:9: that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved
 2. John 6:47: Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.
 3. 1 John 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.
 4. BELIEVE IN JESUS
 - a) When you believe in Jesus, you are believing by faith.
 - b) To Believe in something is life changing
 - c) Not just:
 - (1) Believing there is a God...there is no doubt about that amongst the Demons and Satan.
 - (2) Believing Christ was good...not enough
 - (3) Believing Christ's teachings...lots of world philosophy/religion use parts of the truth.
 - d) We must BELIEVE in the LORD JESUS CHRIST, Acts 16:25-34
 - (1) Believe: by FAITH
 - (2) LORD: Sovereign Boss of all
 - (3) Jesus: the name above all names
 - (4) Christ: the title of the promised Messiah

The Philippian Jailer Converted

Acts 16:25 pAbout midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, 26 and suddenly qthere was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately r all the doors were opened, and severyone's bonds were unfastened. 27 When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and twas about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." 29 And the jailer5 called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he ufell down before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, vwhat must I do to be wsaved?" 31 And they said, x"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you yand your household." 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them zthe same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he awas baptized at once, he and all his family. 34 Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he brejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

IV. Close

David's Kindness to Mephibosheth

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And David said, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" 2 Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David. And the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "I am your servant." 3 And the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?" Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet." 4 The king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar." 5 Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar. 6 And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, "Mephibosheth!" And he answered, "Behold, I am your servant." 7 And David said to him, "Do

not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always.” 8 And he paid homage and said, “What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?”

9 Then the king called Ziba, Saul’s servant, and said to him, “All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master’s grandson. 10 And you and your sons and your servants shall till the land for him and shall bring in the produce, that your master’s grandson may have bread to eat. But Mephibosheth your master’s grandson shall always eat at my table.” Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. 11 Then Ziba said to the king, “According to all that my lord the king commands his servant, so will your servant do.” So Mephibosheth ate at David’s table, like one of the king’s sons. 12 And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Mica. And all who lived in Ziba’s house became Mephibosheth’s servants. 13 So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate always at the king’s table. Now he was lame in both his feet.