

# Crippled by a Fall

## 2 Samuel 9

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### INTRODUCTION:

A. We think about two Old Testament characters today.

1. **David:** There is much to be remembered about David
  - a. Son of Jesse
  - b. Shepherd to his father's sheep
  - c. Slayer of Goliath
  - d. 2<sup>nd</sup> king over Israel . . . Anointed king on three different occasions.
  - e. "A man after God's own heart."
  - f. Committed adultery with Bathsheba
  - g. Had Bathsheba's husband, Uriah the Hittite killed.
  - h. Father of Absalom and Solomon, as well as other sons.
  - i. Author of many beautiful psalms.
  - j. Mentioned by name some 1,129 times in the Bible
2. **Mephibosheth:** There is less revealed about him, but what is revealed is meaningful.
  1. Only surviving son of Jonathan, David's dear friend
  2. Grandson of Saul
  3. Nephew of Ishbosheth
  4. Mentioned by name some 17 times in the Old Testament.
  5. War had cost him the both his father and this grandfather.
  6. Lamé in his feet because he had been crippled by a fall **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."

B. Lesson Text: **2 Samuel 9:1-10** – 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?"

2 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?" He said, "At your service!"

3 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."

4 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."

5 Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar.

6 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!"

7 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."

8 Then he bowed himself, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?"

9 And the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house."

10 You therefore, and your sons and your servants, shall work the land for him, and you shall bring in the harvest, that your master's son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's son shall eat bread at my table always . . . "

C. As we look at the restoration of Mephibosheth, we'll see that his story parallels what God has done for us.

1. **In the actions of DAVID we see GOD.**

2. **In the actions of MEPHOBOSHETH we see OURSELVES . . .** For Mephibosheth was crippled by a fall.

## **MEPHIBOSHETH WAS CRIPPLED BY A FALL.** 2 Samuel 4:4

A. **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."

1. As a five-year-old lad, Mephibosheth's well-meaning nurse panicked, and in her haste to get the boy away from danger, she dropped him.

1. Because of that, he would grow up crippled in both of his feet.

2. He would require the help of others to do what he would be unable to do for himself.

2. In spite of being crippled by a fall, there was someone who would seek to show him kindness.

B. In much the same way, the human race is crippled because of the fall that took place in the Garden of Eden that introduced sin into the human family. As a result, we are at a definite disadvantage because of our propensity to sin.

1. Morally speaking – we cannot live up to the perfect standards of God.

2. Physically speaking we face pain, sickness, and death.

3. Spiritually speaking we cannot make ourselves righteous enough to approach God.

4. We have the same basic problem Mepibosheth had. He was crippled in both feet by a fall. We are crippled when it comes to pleasing God on the basis of our deeds. Like Mephibosheth, we were all crippled by a fall.

- a. **Romans 3:23** – “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
- b. **Romans 6:23** – “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- c. **Isaiah 59:1-2** – “Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear.

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.”

C. But the good news is that, like Mephibosheth, we were sought by the King.

## **MEPHIBOSHETH WAS SOUGHT BY THE KING.**

- A. **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?’ . . . 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’”
  1. Please observe: Mephibosheth did not search for the King . . . The King searched for Mephibosheth.
  2. David made himself know to Mephibosheth just as God makes Himself known to us.
- B. We have been sought by the King of the universe.
  1. **Matthew 18:11** – ““For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.”
  2. **John 10:10** – “. . . I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”
  3. Many do not seek God . . . But God seeks them.
  4. It is said that when Henry David Thoreau, the Naturalist, was near death, he was visited by a pious aunt who asked him, “Henry, have you made your peace with God?” His reply was, “I didn't know that we had quarreled.”
  5. **John 14:27** – “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

## **MEPHIBOSHETH WAS FOUND IN A FAR COUNTRY.**

- A. **2 Samuel 9:4** - 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."
  1. Lo Debar was a city east of the Jordan River.
    - a. The whole area was a barren wasteland.
    - b. The literal meaning of Lo Debar is “the place of no bread.”
    - c. David did not wait for Mephibosheth to come out of that desolate place, he went there seeking the boy.

B. Sin is a desolate place to live.

1. The prodigal son's far country is anywhere a person tries to live without God.
2. Any separation from God is a place and state of desolation.
3. Jesus is the "Bread of life." (John 6:35, 48), and any life that is endeavored to be lived without Him is being lived in Lo Debar, "the place of no bread."
4. To the place of no bread the Bread of Life has come to bring us spiritual nourishment.

C. Like Mephibosheth, we were actually saved for another's sake.

### **MEPHIBOSHETH WAS SAVED FOR ANOTHER'S SAKE.**

A. **2 Samuel 9:7** – "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.'"

B. God loves every one of us for His Son's sake.

1. We don't have to earn that love . . . God's love is there for us. **John 3:16** – "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
2. **Ephesians 1:6** – ". . . He made us accepted in the Beloved." We are fully acceptable to God because we belong to His Son.

C. The story of Mephibosheth has a happy ending . . . And our story can too . . . Because like Mephibosheth, we can someday be restored to the King's table.

### **MEPHIBOSHETH WAS RESTORED TO THE KING'S TABLE.**

2 Samuel 9:10-13

A. **2 Samuel 9:11** – ". . . As for Mephibosheth,' said the king, 'he shall eat at my table like one of the king's sons.'"

1. What a privilege . . . What an honor . . . What a blessing!
2. Mephibosheth's needs would be supplied by the king of Israel.

B. **John 14:13** – "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

1. The Book of Revelation closes with a banquet when the Bride of the Lamb (the Church) will be united with the Lamb (Christ) in Heaven.
2. Your place at the banquet table has been secured at the cost of the blood of Christ. **John 1:29** – "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'"

### **CONCLUSION:**

A. May the story of Mephibosheth ever remind us of how God actively seeks those who are lost and brings them home to His table.

1. He wants to adopt us into His family so we can sit at his table forever.

2. Those who will be allowed to sit at His table in Heaven, are those who have faithfully sat at His table of the memorial feast in the church each Lord's Day.
3. As David actively sought Mephibosheth, so God is actively seeking us to sit at His table.

B. Let us remember:

1. Mephibosheth was crippled by a fall.
2. Mephibosheth was sought by the king.
3. Mephibosheth was found in a far country.
4. Mephibosheth was saved for another's sake.
5. Mephibosheth was restored to the King's table . . . And you can be, too!

C. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**