

## HE BROUGHT HIM FROM THE TRAGEDY TO THE TABLE

**Text:** 2 Samuel 9:1-13

There is a man in this story whose name is Mephibosheth which means “from the mouth of shame”. This man is lame on his feet. He was crippled by a fall that happened when he was five years old. His nurse picked him up to run with him and he fell and was made lame. Because he is crippled, he cannot work which means he cannot provide for himself and the Bible records that he lives in the house of Machir in a place called Lo-debar. Lo-debar means “the place of no pasture” it was a desolate, isolated, and obscure place. Often described as a place of hopeless waiting, poverty, and misery where people lived at the end of their resources.

Mephibosheth lives there because he is not only crippled, but he is also in hiding. Mephibosheth’s grandfather was Saul the first king of Israel that both failed and was rejected by God when David was chosen to be king. Saul despised David and hunted him like an animal and tried to kill him. So now with David as king, Mephibosheth thinks that if David knows he’s alive, he will try to destroy him. Mephibosheth’s life is a complete tragedy! He’s related to a rebel against the king, he’s crippled by a fall that he wasn’t responsible for, he lives in someone else’s house in a country that is desolate and depressing. Mephibosheth is a perfect picture of a sinner. Sinners are crippled by a fall, natural born rebels against God, hiding from Him because they think He’s just out to destroy them, and living in land that is desolate and depressing. The fall of Adam that crippled the human race and led to the ruin of creation is a tragedy!

David is also in this story, it actually starts with him. He is the king of Israel, the sovereign ruler, the lord of the land! Everything goes into motion by his will and words. David had a friend before he came to the throne named Jonathon. Jonathon was King Saul’s son by he and David loved each other beyond comprehension. The Bible says that their souls were “knit together” and that they loved each other as their own souls. Jonathon and David had a covenant relationship **1 Samuel 20:42** And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city. *Jonathon has now died and David is now King and David remembers the promise that he made to Jonathon.* So, he enquires if there are any descendants left from the line of Saul that he can show kindness to for Jonathon’s sake. In verse three he says that wants to show “the kindness of God unto him”. This whole story is a beautiful picture of the grace of God. Grace is the unmerited, free, and undeserved love,

favor and blessing God bestows upon humanity through the salvation and forgiveness offered because of Jesus Christ. David is a picture of God the Father and Jonathon is a picture of Jesus Christ. David wants to show grace to a descendant of his enemy because of his great love for Jonathon. God wants to show grace to the descendants of Adam because of His great love for Jesus!

David calls for Ziba the servant. Ziba is a type of the Holy Ghost in this story because he is the one sent with the task of bringing Mephibosheth to David. When we could not go to where God is, the Holy Ghost came to us to draw us to Christ.

Mephibosheth goes before David reverently, not knowing what will happen to him. David informs him that he will restore to him all the land of Saul and that he will have servants work that land to bring in the fruits for him year after year. Then he says that he will eat at David's table continually as one of the king's sons. David brought him from a tragedy to his table! Jesus told a parable in Luke 14 about a man who made a great supper and invited many to his table, so this is a theme in scripture.

**Sharing a meal in Biblical culture represents more than just eating food with someone. It signified acceptance, intimacy, protection and covenant relationship. The table was a place of:**

- **Conversion** – Mephibosheth changed houses, from Saul's to David's. When God brought us to his table, we were converted from Adam's family into God's. When Jesus met Zacchaeus at the sycamore tree he told him to come down at once. When he did, Jesus told him today he would abide with him at his house.
- **Communion** – is the act of sharing fellowship, or a close relationship with someone in which feelings and thoughts are exchanged. Jesus revealed things with his disciples around the table that he did not share with anyone else. God revealed to Abraham that Sarah would have a son while sitting at a meal.
- **Connection** – Not only would Mephibosheth sit at David's table and eat, but he would sit there with all the other sons of the king. This is a picture of community. The church is the body of Jesus Christ where we have been brought into connection with other believers. We are to assemble ourselves together regularly because we need connection and community.

