

Dinner At David's Place

2 Samuel 9:1 And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?

- At the death of Saul and Jonathan, all their family members fled for fear, not of the Philistines, but for fear of the new king (David).
- Mephibosheth, a little five-year-old prince who knew nothing but the palace, was crippled when he was dropped by his fleeing nurse.
- For the last fifteen years he has been living in a refugee city called Lodebar ("a barren place")
- He is a perfect picture of the disabled human soul, crippled by sin.
- Isn't it ironic that we don't run from sin (Philistines) but we spend our lives running from God (King David)?
- We were created for the palace, but we have never recovered from the Fall. We've all been dropped by people we thought could carry us to safety. It wasn't our fault, but we've been crippled for life!
- Hollywood presents sin as attractive, but the Bible portrays sinners accurately as grotesquely disfigured, hopeless cripples.
- Lameness is among the imperfections that barred a descendant of Aaron from entering the Holy Place or offering sacrifices.

Leviticus 21:18 For whatsoever man he be that hath a blemish, he shall not approach: a blind man, or a lame, or he that hath a flat nose, or any thing superfluous,

- KINDNESS – "chesed" – mercy, lovingkindness, grace
- **David's question:** NOT "is there anyone deserving, sharp, strong?" BUT "is there anyone?" (whosoever will)
- **Ziba's answer:** "yes, there is someone, but he is crippled" (you wouldn't want him around here, he's not like the rest of us)
- David is not showing kindness because of Mephibosheth, but because of another – Jonathan! (It's all because of Jesus!)
- **Romans 9:15** For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.
- Mephibosheth brings no prestige whatsoever to David's kingdom – his whole life from this point forward will be dependent on GRACE!
- When Mephibosheth appears before David, he calls himself a "dead dog" – (saved a wretch like me, for such a worm as I, etc.) – the humility is commendable, but that's not how God sees us!
- What was the most common command from Jesus' lips? "Fear not!"

- **Ephesians 2:1-9** And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; [2] Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: [3] Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. [4] But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, [5] Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) [6] And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: [7] That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. [8] For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: [9] Not of works, lest any man should boast.
- **Titus 3:3-7** For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. [4] But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, [5] Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; [6] Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; [7] That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
- Mephibosheth is now an ADOPTED SON of David, with all the perks and privileges of royalty!
- **Romans 8:15** For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.
- Imagine dinner at David's place! Here comes clever Amnon, beautiful Tamar, brilliant Solomon, handsome Absalom, brave Joab ... and crippled Mephibosheth! He awkwardly finds his place at the table, and the tablecloth covers his feet. Do you think he understood grace? (His limp was a constant reminder of grace!)
- **2 Corinthians 4:7** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.
- **Ezekiel 16:6** And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live.
- Nearly sixty verses of sin later, God still shows mercy toward Israel:
- **Ezekiel 16:60** Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant.