

# From Destitute to Desired (Mephibosheth)

By Matthew Black, Pastor

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

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**Introduction:** Open your Bible to the book of **2 Samuel 9**. We are studying in the life of David. The title of the message this morning is "From Destitute to Desired". Tonight we are going to look at the tender mercies of our Saviour, and how he loves the most guilty and undeserving of sinners. Let us be amazed at His grace tonight!

**2 Samuel 9:1-13**, "Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, **Behold thy servant!** 7 And David said unto him, Fear not: for **I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father;** and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually. 8 And he bowed himself, and said, **What is thy servant, that thou shouldst look upon such a dead dog as I am?** 9 ¶ Then the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said unto him, I have given unto thy master's son all that pertained to Saul and to all his house. 10 **Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in the fruits, that thy master's son may have food to eat:** but Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread alway at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. 11 Then said Ziba unto the king, According to all that my lord the king hath commanded his servant, so shall thy servant do. As for Mephibosheth, *said the king,* he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons. 12 And **Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Micha.** And all that dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants unto Mephibosheth. 13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet."

[Prayer for Guidance]

We learn much about the central message of our church from the life of Mephibosheth. For those who may not know, Mephibosheth lived in a place called Lo-debar. He was the son of Jonathan and the grandson of Saul. After Saul and Jonathan were killed in battle, he was in danger of death. No one from Saul's family should have lived. Yet David wanted to show kindness to the family of his greatest enemy. David is a good picture of the mercy of God.

Mephibosheth became the table guest of the King. King David brought him into the palace as a son to forever have safety and refuge and the love that was so undeserved.

We see the love of Christ beautifully portrayed in this story. We see the kinds of people Christ comes to save!

- I. Christ comes to save **Destitute** (helpless) people. We read in **2 Samuel 9:3**, David says, "And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the **kindness of God** unto him? And Ziba said unto the king,

**Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.** We see this in the picture of Mephibosheth. He is crippled. David made all the preparation. There was nothing Mephibosheth could do for himself. Yet the king loved the crippled boy as his own son. Why would David show such love? It was nothing in Mephibosheth.

The first time we find his Mephibosheth's name is in **2 Samuel 4:4**. Israel was defeated at Mount Gilboa. King Saul and his son Jonathan were killed. Mephibosheth was left with his caretaker. As news spread, Saul household panicked. There was confusion, and everyone fled for their lives.

We read in **2 Samuel 4:4**, "And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son *that was lame of his feet*. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was **Mephibosheth**". He was crippled when his nurse dropped him at the news of the death of his father and grandfather.

- Christ saves **Destitute** people.

II. Christ has come to save a **Doomed** and Guilty people.

**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?**"

This is not written, but it is pretty clear that Mephibosheth is under the death penalty. The ancient tradition of kings was that the new king would exterminate the entire family of the former king so that there was no threat to his authority. Every day in Lodebar is a day wondering if he will die. ***The only thing sparing sinner's life is the tender mercies of God that sent Christ to the Cross. Christ is the Lord and God of all, and yet God the Father sent Him in love to rescue His Bride.***

**Application:** Like Mephibosheth, we are spiritually lame and unable to help ourselves. The King of kings has every right to condemn us. All of us have transgressed God's commandments. We deserve His just wrath forever.

Yet Christ is searching and seeking to save the lost. "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (**Luke 19:10**). He has desired you because of a covenant he made with the Father. He desires you so much He gives His life to you. He is "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (**Revelation 13:8**).

- Christ saves **Destitute** people.
- Christ saves **Doomed** people.

III. Christ has come to save His **Disgraced** (Chosen) people. David had nothing to gain by saving Mephibosheth. He simply showed kindness to him. Yet Mephibosheth went from being disgraced to desired. David desires to help Mephibosheth. Look at **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?**"

Skip down to verses **3-5**, "And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the **kindness of God** unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, **Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.** 4 And the king

said unto him, Where *is* he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he *is* in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar. 5 Then king David sent, and  **fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.**

David went after Mephibosheth—not to kill him, but to save him! It was not for Mephibosheth’s sake, but “for Jonathan’s sake” (**verse 1**). We see that there was nothing sparing Mephibosheth’s life except the covenant David made with Jonathan in **1 Samuel 20:15-16**. Jonathan says, “But also thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth. 16 So Jonathan made a *covenant* with the house of David”.

God calls us in time because of a covenant before the foundation of the world. Paul tells us that “[God] hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world” (**Ephesians 1:4**). Jesus said, “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out” (**John 6:37**).

Before the foundation of the world God set His love on us. He says in **Jeremiah 31:3**, “I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.” There is nothing in us worthy of loving. In fact there is everything for God to hate.

- Christ saves **Destitute** people.
- Christ saves **Doomed** people.
- Christ saves **Disgraced** people.

- IV. Christ has come to save **Desperate** people. When Mephibosheth is brought before David, he humbles himself. We read in **2 Samuel 9:8**, “And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?” Mephibosheth shows that he deserves no mercy. He is the grandson of Jonathan and should therefore die.

Why should David have mercy on Mephibosheth? Because he is the king, and he can do whatever he wants. In the same way, God says to us in **Romans 9:15**, “I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.” Mercy is not something we can demand. God does not have to save anyone. He would be just to give us all His just punishment. Yet we read that He has “predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will” (**Ephesians 1:5**).

Mephibosheth saw himself as unworthy. He said to David, “**What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?**” That is the kind of person that Christ has mercy on! Jesus said, “I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (**Matthew 9:13**). If you know yourself to be a great sinner, then you can be saved. Trust in the merits of Christ’s death on the cross. Trust Him! You are unable to save yourself.

- Christ saves **Destitute** people.
- Christ saves **Doomed** people.
- Christ saves **Disgraced** people.
- Christ saves **Desperate** people.

- V. Finally, Christ has come to save **Depleted** people. Mephibosheth was essentially poor and bankrupt. In Lodebar there was no help for Mephibosheth. At any moment he could have been put to death. Yet Mephibosheth went from bankrupt to billionaire. Mephibosheth would never return to Lodebar. All fear is now gone because he's eating at the table of the King. We read in **2 Samuel 9:7**, "David said unto him [Mephibosheth], Fear not: for **I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.**"

There is nothing to fear if you have put your faith in Jesus Christ. **Romans 8:1**, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus".

Have you left Lodebar to eat at the king's table? Mephibosheth was given the house of Ziba as his servants. There were 15 sons of Ziba and 20 servants (**verse 10**).

Mephibosheth was delivered. He never had to fear. My dear brother and sister in Christ, there is nothing to fear—not even death, for the King of kings has set his love upon us!

And because God's love is upon us, we are adopted into His family. We are seated at His table. All His riches are our riches. His love is lavished upon us. We are now counted as God's very own children. And the Bible says that if we are God's children then we are his heirs, "heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ" (**Romans 8:17**).

Turn over to **Romans 8:31**. We are amazed at God's love for us. Paul was amazed by Christ's love. He says in Romans 8:31, "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

**Conclusion:** Do you fear death? Do you fear that perhaps you are not saved, and there is no mercy for you? Turn to the love of Christ. There is mercy for you tonight. Turn to the love of Christ! Christ loves you because he loves to show mercy to sinners. Are you a great sinner? Christ loves to show mercy to great sinners. Humble yourself and come to Jesus! Humble yourself and see your self as Mephibosheth, unable to help yourself, undeserving of the king's love. Even though you are undeserving, the King has set His love on you!