

CRIPPLED YET EATING AT THE KING'S TABLE

2Samuel 9:10 *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.*

Mephibosheth was the son of Jonathan, the son of King Saul. As a child, his nurse dropped him in the chaos that followed the death of Jonathan and Saul. “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” (2Sam 4:4). Like Mephibosheth, we all have some scars, some pain or even trauma inflicted upon us. We have all been dropped, so to speak, in the chaos that is life. As I speak (or you read), perhaps the pain of some childhood incident may sadly be reignited. Firstly, be assured it is not your fault, just as it was not Mephibosheth's fault that he was dropped by his nurse. Simultaneously, we cannot blame the nurse; she saved the life of Mephibosheth. Sometimes, as the Lord Jesus himself declared, disabilities have nothing to do with our actions.

John 9:1 *And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.*

John 9:2 *And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?*

John 9:3 *Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.*

God will show his glory through our disabilities! Our disabilities are not God's disabilities! The opposite is true – “And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me” (2Cor 12:9). Normally, a disability is a stigma which turns some people away. However, King David did not despise the disability of Mephibosheth; he gave orders for him to eat bread at the King's table always. Hallelujah! Whatever our infirmities or disabilities, King Jesus will make room for us at his table. Jesus is not ashamed of our disabilities, as we perhaps may be. We can be certain there were many physically able and powerful individuals eating around King David's table. Nevertheless, all of them were forced to consider the disability of Mephibosheth when they ate at the table. They must have waited until he was carried into his seat before they ate. Heaven pays careful attention and shows kind deference for those who are weak despite the magnificent power seraphim, cherubim and angels.

Gal 4:14 And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.

Why did King David demonstrate such incredible love for a cripple such as Mephibosheth? The Bible records that David had made a covenant with Jonathan to look after his children and house: “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 everyone from the face of the earth” (I Sam 20:15). This is a beautiful symbolism of the role of our Lord Jesus Christ as both intercessor for us and the God to whom the intercession. In other words, Jesus is both Jonathan and David! As Jonathan, the Lord came in flesh and gave birth to us. “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:5). “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures” (James 1:18). We are the sons and daughters of the Lord Jesus Christ if believe that he is the one and only God, repent, are baptized in Jesus name and receive his Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).

Now, while we are the children of the Lord through the new birth and have been transformed through his indwelling Spirit, we still experience challenges and problems common to this world. Like Jonathan, the Lord intercedes for us with the Father. “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered” (Romans 8:26). It was a good thing that Jonathan interceded for his children with David. He had no idea that Mephibosheth would be crippled. The Father is actually none other than Jesus himself. To whom were the sorrows, prayers and intercessions of Jesus addressed? We must understand the role that God has played through his own flesh, the Son, in reconciling us back to him. This is not God the Son praying to God the Father, but the Father playing the role of intercessor through his own flesh, the Son.

2Co 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

2Co 5:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

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We who carry various disabilities will one day sit at the table of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords in heaven. Our Jonathan, Jesus Christ, has secured a covenant for us with the Father through his own prayers and intercessions. “That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Luke 22:30). We have a place reserved like Mephibosheth at the Lord’s table in heaven. It is interesting that Mephibosheth lived in a place by the name “Lodebar” from where he was brought to King David. Lodebar means “pastureless” – a place that was dry and barren. “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. Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar” (2Sam 9: 4,5). We, too, were in the Lodebar of our sins, but Jesus called for us to come to his table in Jerusalem. The Lord Jesus first raised up Lazarus from the dead and then brought him to sit with him at the table. “There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him” (John 12:2). Will not the same Lord Jesus raise us up on the last day and invite us to sit at his table? Rest assured he will!

Haman the Agagite was invited to eat at the King’s table by Queen Esther. In his case, Esther and all the Jews were fasting and praying for his destruction three days. “Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king” (Esther 5:12). The banquet invitation for Haman turned out to be a death sentence, but Jesus’ banquet invitation for us is eternal life.

Mat 8:11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

Rev 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.