

THE GRACE OF GOD ILLUSTRATED IN THE LIFE OF MEPHIBOSHETH

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? 2 Samuel 9:1

King Saul had a son whose name was Jonathan; Jonathan had a son whose name was Mephibosheth. One day there was a battle and Saul and Jonathan were killed. Many years later we find Mephibosheth in exile in the land of Lo-debar, far from the palace. He is fearful that King David will destroy him in order to strengthen his authority. Several years pass and David calls his servant Ziba and says, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake, and Ziba says, yes, there is one left. He is the son of Jonathan. He is a cripple. He is living in the land of Lo-debar on the east of Jordan. The king sought him out and brought him back to the palace to live with him and to dine at the king's table continually

MEPH'S CONDITION IS TYPICAL OF OURS

HE LIVED IN NEEDLESS FEAR IN A BARREN WASTELAND

- *Lo-debar means barren, or place of no bed*
- *Those living without Christ are living in a barren wasteland of sin*

HE WAS CRIPPLED BY A FALL, 3

- *He was five years old. Word had come that Saul and Jonathan had been killed in battle.*
- *In desperation his nurse picked him up to flee, but he falls and becomes lame*
- *Everyone has been crippled by sin*
- *For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*
- *Sin cripples our walk with God, our prayer life, it cripples faith, it leaves us without strength, and hope*

DAVID IS A TYPE OF THE LORD JESUS

HE WAS SHOWN KINDNESS BECAUSE OF A PROMISE

- *1 Sam 20:14 And thou shalt not only while yet I live shew me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not: But [also] thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever:*
- *David made a promise that he would not destroy his children after God had established him as king*
- *God saves us because His Word. He promises that whosoever calleth upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved*

HE WAS SHOWN KINDNESS FOR JONATHAN'S SAKE

- *He didn't even know Mephibosheth, but he knew Jonathan*
- *He was given a home in the Kingdom for Jonathan's sake*
- *He was provided for, for Jonathan's sake*
- *All the land of his father was restored for Jonathan's sake*
- *He sat at the king's table for Jonathan's sake*
- *Likewise, we are saved for Jesus' sake*

THE MEANS OF RETURN TO THE PALACE WERE PROVIDED FOR BY THE KING

- *He was more than invited, he was brought to the palace*
- *David took care of all the travel arrangements*
- *Had Mephibosheth had to get there on his own he would have never made it. He was cripple*
- *Not only that, he was going to enjoy the trip almost as much as the destination*
- *I can't wait to get to heaven, but I've got to tell you that I am pretty much enjoying the trip*

HE ENJOYED CONTINUAL FELLOWSHIP AT THE KING'S TABLE

- *Not only would he be brought back into the kingdom, but he would eat at the king's table continually*
- *David said, He shall eat at my table, as one of the king's son's*

HIS LIFE WAS COMPLETELY CHANGED

- *From the moment he was lifted onto the king's caravan, he was a different person*
- *And from the time you were lifted into the caravan of salvation you to were forever changed*

- *Mel Trotter was an alcoholic. Again and again he promised his wife that he would give up drink for good. Once he managed to stay dry for eleven and a half weeks, but he could never stay sober. The power of liquor was too great for him. He brought his family to the brink of starvation to quench his thirst for beer. They had only the one child. The boy was about two years old when Mel came home after a drinking spree. "I went home after a ten-day drunk and found my boy dead in his mother's arms. He put his arms around his wife and swore on the baby's coffin that he'd never touch another drop. Two hours after the funeral, he staggered home blind drunk. Trotter decided to kill himself. He staggered drunk through Chicago, determined to throw himself into the freezing waters of Lake Michigan. Unable to break his habit, unable to keep his promises, he wanted to die. He passed the Pacific Garden Mission and there received Chris, and from that point on his life was completely changed.*