# Lesson 85 Mephibosheth

#### **Story Elements**

- Text: 2 Samuel 9:1-13
- Setting: approx. 1010 B.C.
- Main Characters: God, David, Mephibosheth
- **Plot**: David shows kindness to the last of Saul's descendants.
- **Climax**: "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!" (v 6)
- **Key word**(s): "kindness" (vv 1, 3, 7)

### Searching for Survivors (2 Sam. 9:1-4)

- 1) Unlike other kings, David did not lose his sense of gratitude or mercy as his territory and power grew. David asked his servants if they knew of any survivors of Saul's house that he could show kindness to. Why is this request so unusual?
- 2) David wished to show such kindness to honor his covenant with his truest friend, Jonathan.

1 Sam. 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_ and thy \_\_\_\_\_\_ for ever.

- 3) Ziba, a former servant of Saul, told David that one of Jonathan's sons survived Mephibosheth.
  - a) He lived with a wealthy man by the name of \_\_\_\_\_\_ the son of Ammiel in a town called Lo-debar, about 10 miles south of the Sea of Galilee.
  - b) Mephibosheth was "lame on his feet" because when he was a child he was \_\_\_\_\_\_ by his nurse when she fled at the news of Saul's death. (cf. 2 Sam. 4:4)

#### Served as a Son (2 Sam. 7:5-13)

4) As the next-in-line to Saul's throne, Mephibosheth had every reason to believe that David summoned him for nefarious purposes. He greets the king with a humble salutation: "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 \_\_\_\_\_\_!" (v 6)

5) Instead of killing Mephibosheth, David showed kindness to him by restoring to him all of Saul's estate and treating him as one of his own \_\_\_\_\_. (v 11)

## Application

6) Machir was generous and kind to Mephibosheth, the crippled son of a deposed king. He was also benevolent to David when he would later flee from Absalom (cf. 17:27). In both cases, Machir did not know how the stories of either would end, nor how long his generosity would be needed. Nevertheless, he gave freely and selflessly. May the Lord help us to be as giving as Machir.

Luke 14:12 Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. 13 But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: 14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the \_\_\_\_\_\_ of the just.

- 7) David's kindness to Mephibosheth is an illustration of God's grace to us. Perhaps this is one reason why David called it the "kindness of God" (v 3) – it is a kindness that is modeled after God. Like Mephibosheth, we are...
  - a) ...crippled by a \_\_\_\_\_ we also are lame spiritually, and that because of an ancestor's sin.
  - b) ...saved by a \_\_\_\_\_\_ David's covenant with Jonathan was the motivation behind his kindness; likewise, we have found grace through the New Covenant.
  - c) ...treated as a \_\_\_\_\_ though we are not children of God, by grace we are made children of God.

#### **Answer Key**

Key word(s): kindness • 1) The request is unusual because, typically, a rival king would've wished to exterminate any possible threats to his throne. • 1 Sam. 20:42 "seed, seed" • 3) a) Machir; b) dropped • 4) servant • 5) sons • Luke 14:12 resurrection • 7) a) fall; b) covenant; c) son