

2Samuel 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?

2Samuel 9:2 And *there was* of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant *is he*.

2Samuel 9:3 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*.

2Samuel 9:4 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*.

One day David determined to find out if there were any descendants of the house of Saul that were still alive. He wanted to extend them his kindness in honor of his friendship with Jonathan and the covenant he had made with him.

1 Samuel 20:12–17 “And Jonathan said unto David, O LORD God of Israel, when I have sounded my father about to morrow any time, or the third day, and, behold, if there be good toward David, and I then send not unto thee, and shew it thee; The LORD do so and much more to Jonathan: but if it please my father to do thee evil, then I will shew it thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace: and the LORD be with thee, as he hath been with my father. 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: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth. So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, Let the LORD even require it at the hand of David's enemies. And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul.”

A servant from the house of Saul whose name was Ziba was identified and called before David. The king first asked Ziba to confirm his identity. When he did, emphasizing that he was a servant of David, the king asked him if there were any descendants of Saul still living because he wanted to extend his kindness to them. David wanted to show “the kindness of God,” the greatest kindness he possibly could, to this person.

Ziba told David that there was a son of Jonathan still living that was lame. David then asked Ziba where the man lived and was told that he lived in the house of Hachir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.

Reminder: We learned in chapter 4 that Jonathan's son was five years old when his father died and that he was injured in a fall that resulted in his lameness when his nurse rushed to get him to safety after hearing the news.

2Samuel 9:5 Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.

2Samuel 9:6 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!

2Samuel 9:7 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.

2Samuel 9:8 And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?

King David sent for Jonathan's son whose name we now learn was Mephibosheth. When he came before David, he fell on his face to honor him. When David called his name, he answered by identifying himself as David's servant. David knew he was afraid and told him that he had nothing to fear. In fact, he intended to be kind to him in honor of his father Jonathan. He intended to restore to him all the land that had belonged to Saul and have him eat at David's table continually.

Mephibosheth didn't understand why David would show him such kindness. I am sure he felt the shame of his infirmity. I am sure he was also well aware of his grandfather's treatment of David.

2Samuel 9:9 ¶ 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.

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.

2Samuel 9:11 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.

David then recalled Ziba, Saul's servant, and informed him that he had restored to Mephibosheth everything that had belonged to the house of Saul. Ziba, his sons and servants were commanded to till the land for Mephibosheth and bring him the harvest to supply for his food. Mephibosheth, however, was to always have a seat at the king's table to eat with him.

We are told that Ziba had 15 sons and 20 servants. Ziba assured the king that he would do as he had been commanded.

David then repeated that Mephibosheth was always to eat with the king—not as a guest, but as one of the king's sons.

2Samuel 9:12 And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name *was* Micha.

And all that dwelt in the house of Ziba *were* servants unto Mephibosheth.

2Samuel 9:13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet.

Now we learn that Mephibosheth had a young son named Micha. We are also told that Mephibosheth moved to Jerusalem so he could eat at the king's table. I would assume that meant that his family lived with him in Jerusalem and that the harvest from his fields was used to feed his personal household.

It is emphasized that Mephibosheth was lame in both of his feet.

I loved Guzik's application to the Christian:

"David's grace to Mephibosheth is a wonderful picture of God's grace to us. We are Mephibosheth.

- We are hiding, poor, weak, lame, and fearful before our King comes to us.
- We are separated from our King because of our wicked ancestors.
- We are separated from our King because of our deliberate actions.
- We separated ourselves from the King because we didn't know him or His love for us.
- Our King sought us out before we sought Him.
- The King's kindness is extended to us for the sake of another.
- The King's kindness is based on covenant.
- We must receive the King's kindness in humility.
- The King returns to us what we lost in hiding from Him.
- The King returns to us more than what we lost in hiding from Him.
- We have the privilege of provision at the King's table.
- We are received as sons at the King's table, with access to the King and fellowship with Him.
- We receive servants from the King.
- The King's honor does not immediately take away all our weakness and lameness, but it gives us a favor and standing that overcomes its sting and changes the way we think about ourselves."