

REDEMPTION

2 SAMUEL 9

2 Samuel 9: The Story of Mephibosheth

The story of Mephibosheth is a story of redemption. Mephibosheth is the grandson of King Saul and the son of David's great friend Jonathan.

Upon the deaths of his grandfather and father, Mephibosheth was whisked away from Jerusalem for his own safety and along the way was dropped and became lame. It was not uncommon in those days for a new monarch to wipe out the household of the former King, so that there would never be a question of who the rightly ruler of the kingdom should be.

King David desired greatly to show kindness to someone from Saul's family for the sake of his great friend Jonathan. Upon learning that there was one of Jonathan's sons still alive, David had him brought to the palace.

Now, understandably, Mephibosheth was terrified that David wanted to kill him because of his family connection to King Saul. He experienced just the opposite. He was lavished with royal gifts and treatment because of his family connection with Jonathan. He received a royal inheritance.

We who are dead in our sin need someone to save us from God's judgment. It is only through our relationship with Jesus Christ that we are not only saved, but redeemed. Romans 8:16-17 tells us that we are in essence adopted by God and become heirs to everything that belongs to him.

The key to all of this is our connection with Jesus. John 15

It can be easy for us to fall into the traps of believing that we either deserve God's gifts and merit or on the opposite end, that we are too far gone for God to rescue and redeem. Neither is true. We do not deserve God's grace and mercy. We receive it as a gift because of his son Jesus. Also, we are never so far gone that God can't or won't receive us back into his presence. After all it is not about how good or bad we are. It is 100 percent about his son Jesus.

Interesting fact: The place Mephibosheth lived was called Lo Debar. It literally means "land of nothing".

Possible questions to get your group talking:

1. Is there anyone in this story that you thought about more than the other characters? What were your thoughts about this person?
2. Why was Mephibosheth afraid when he was being brought before King David?
3. What was David's reason for showing Mephibosheth kindness?
4. What might keep a person from receiving God's kindness and forgiveness?
5. How can you partner with God in his mission of redeeming others?