

THE LAME FROM LODEBAR

2 SAMUEL 9

Text: 2 Sam 9:3, 5

(2 Samuel 9:3) "And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet."

Introduction:

Give history. Saul had got word that David had been anointed king and now has set out to try to kill David who is in line for his throne.

(1 Samuel 26:2) "Then Saul arose, and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph."

(1 Samuel 26:9-12) "And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless? {10} David said furthermore, As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish. {11} The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear

that is at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go. {12} So David took the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's bolster; and they gat them away, and no man saw it, nor knew it, neither awaked: for they were all asleep; because a deep sleep from the LORD was fallen upon them."

Saul was not successful in killing David, nor did David kill Saul though he several chances to.

However Saul and Jonathan were both killed in a battle at Mt Gibo. In the terror of that day of defeat and death, the nurse caught up five year old Mephibasheth and fled with him in her arms fear that the Philistines would come after him as well.

In her haste to escape Miphibasheth fell and thus became lame in both feet for the rest of his life.

(2 Samuel 4:4) "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."

As we look more closely at this story we can see some wonderful things though the situation was one that was bleak.

Notice

1. MEPHIBOSHETH'S POSITION

A. Fearfulness (vs 7)

(2 Samuel 9:7) "And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely show 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."

B. Destruction (vs 5)

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

1. Was in Lodebar - the place of no pasture.

C. Helpless (vs 13)

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

2. DAVID'S PURPOSE

David wished to show kindness to the house of Saul (his enemy) for Jonathan's sake (the gift of God). What an illustration of 2 Cor. 5:19.

(2 Corinthians 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."

A. This love was spontaneous

1. It was voluntary

B. This love was gracious

1. It sought out the undeserving.

2. It offered favor to an enemy.

(Romans 5:8) "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

C. This love was self sacrificing (vs 9)

(2 Samuel 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."

1. This was a great gift

3. PROMISE GIVEN

- A. Mephibosheth believed the message (vs 6)

(2 Samuel 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!"

- B. He humbled himself (vss 6,8)

(2 Samuel 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!"

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

1. The goodness of God leads to repentance.

(2 Corinthians 5:14) "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:"

C. Was accepted (vs 7)

(2 Samuel 9:7) "And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely show 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."

D. Was adopted (vs 11)

(2 Samuel 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."

E. Was made an heir. (vs 7)

(2 Samuel 9:7) "And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely show 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."

1. From poverty to plenty.

2. From the place of no pastures to the place of peace.

5. PRINCIPLES FOUND.

Mephibosheth - a type of the redeemed sinner

A. He belonged to the royal line, but was made a cripple by a fall.

(2 Samuel 4:4) "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."

B. He lived in exile from the king but was remembered because of a covenant.

(1 Samuel 20:14-15) "And thou shalt not only while yet I live show me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not: {15} 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."

(2 Samuel 9:3-4) "And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan

hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet. {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."

C. He was called into the king's presence and exalted because of the merits of another.

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

(2 Samuel 9:7) "And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely show 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."

D. He was given a glorious heritage

(2 Samuel 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."

E. He lived a life of self-denial during the king's absence

(2 Samuel 19:24) "And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king, and had neither dressed

his feet, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came again in peace."

F. He rejoiced at the return of the king and cared little for material things.

(2 Samuel 19:30) "And Mephibosheth said unto the king, Yea, let him take all, forasmuch as my lord the king is come again in peace unto his own house."