



There are a few things that we see in the life of Mephibosheth that are quite interesting.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN

1) HE WAS DROPPED

The scripture in chapter 4 verse 4 makes it clear that Mephibosheth was dropped by his nurse. If he hadn't been dropped he wouldn't have been lame in both feet. This is what put him in real need of David's offer that comes later in 2 Samuel 9.

2) HE SHOULD HAVE DIED

When Saul and David fell in battle on Mount Gilboa word came to all of Israel. The nurse of Jonathan grabbed Jonathan's son to flee so that the Philistines would not kill them. The normal pattern at that time would have been for the victors of a war to kill the entire family of the previous king.

There was probably also fear of whoever became king of Israel in replacement of Saul. It was also normal for an incoming king to put to death all of the previous king's family so there would never be an uprising. Either way the nurse of Jonathan's son was fearful and grabbed him and ran to hide him. In the process she dropped him and he became "lame in both feet".

Now David is finally King and he has had amazing success because of God's blessings. He has won every battle he has entered into and he is back home and remembers his covenant with his friend Jonathan. We read about David first asking about Jonathan's family. Then David said, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul, so that I could show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" (2 Samuel 9:1) David remembers what God desires, "3 Vindicate the weak and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and destitute. 4 Rescue the weak and needy; Save *them* from the hand of the wicked. (Psalms 82:3-4) This is what David does for Mephibosheth.

3) HE WAS LAME IN BOTH FEET

Mephibosheth couldn't get around on his own. As a matter of fact when they found him he was living in the house of Machir in the area of Lo-debar. The scriptures never explain why he was living in the house of Machir but we can probably assume that someone in that day that was lame couldn't provide for themselves.

The Scriptures make a point to tell us that Mephibosheth is lame in both feet. In 2 Samuel 4:4, 9:3 and 9:13. It's interesting as to why Samuel would write "He was lame in both feet" three times. To be mentioned three times makes us have to think that it was very important.

Mephibosheth didn't need reminding that he was lame, he had been living it since he was 5 years old. I believe that the point is being made so that the reader can see that he can't redeem himself. He is in desperate need of someone to redeem him.

4) HE KNEW HE WAS NOTHING AND NEEDED A "SAVIOR".

David finds Mephibosheth and has him brought to the palace. When he is brought before David Mephibosheth falls prostrate before the King. He is no doubt still fearful of what the King wants with him, a member of Saul's family. Remember that in that time he would have been put to death just for being a descendant of Saul.

2 Samuel 9:6-8 David says, "Mephibosheth." And he said, 'Here is your servant!' ⁷Then David said to him, 'Do not be afraid, for I will assuredly show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul; and you yourself shall eat at my table regularly.' ⁸Again Mephibosheth prostrated himself, and said, 'What is your servant, that you should be concerned about a dead dog like me?'"

When Mephibosheth's father and grandfather were killed he became an orphan and his life had lost all value. He knew that he was at the King's mercy and that in that day's custom, his life was worthless (in man's eyes). However, David treats him as one of his own children. He not only maintains his life, he restores all of Saul's property and servants to Mephibosheth.

David saves his life and restores him as a child of the King.

5) HE IS REDEEMED

Mephibosheth was in need of someone to come alongside him and restore and redeem him. He could have refused David's more than generous gift. But it would have meant going back to his status as "Dead dog" (his words). Instead he accepts David's gift and is restored to what his place would have been if Saul was still alive or if Jonathan, his father, had claimed the throne.

Another interesting situation in this short chapter is that Mephibosheth is told by the King that he will sit at the King's table. Again, this isn't written once, but three times in the last 3 verses of chapter 9. The New American Standard Bible says that he "will eat at the King's table regularly." Other translations say "He shall eat at the King's table in perpetuity." Perpetuity; - In a way that never ends or changes. That means that Mephibosheth will eat at the King's table forever.