

REDEMPTION STUDY #1

Leaving Nothing Town

The Redemption of Mephibosheth

THE STORY

2 Samuel 9:1-9

David asked, “Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?”

² Now there was a servant of Saul’s household named Ziba. They summoned him to appear before David, and the king said to him, “Are you Ziba?”

“At your service,” he replied.

³ The king asked, “Is there no one still alive from the house of Saul to whom I can show God’s kindness?” Ziba answered the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan; he is lame in both feet.”

⁴ “Where is he?” the king asked.

Ziba answered, “He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar.”

⁵ So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel.

⁶ When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor.

David said, “Mephibosheth!”

“At your service,” he replied.

⁷ “Don’t be afraid,” David said to him, “for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table.”

⁸ Mephibosheth bowed down and said, “What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?”

⁹ Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul’s steward, and said to him, “I have given your master’s grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. ¹⁰ You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master’s grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table.”

The little girl grew up as one of those energetic kids who never sat still. She was always doing cartwheels, flips, and generally bouncing off the walls whenever she got the chance. At age 4 she started learning gymnastics and she used that to burn off the endless energy. She competed in gymnastics until age 10, when she had a conversation with her parents that changed the direction of her life forever.



This young lady was born with fibular hemimelia – meaning that she didn't have fibulas, ankles, heels, and most of the other bones in her feet. At 18 months old, both of her lower legs were amputated so she could be fitted with prosthetic legs and learn to walk.

Then, as a 10-year-old, her parents had a hard talk with her. They told her that at some point she would have to wear prosthetics during gymnastics because she might damage her knees from all of the force she was subjecting them to.

She knew her future was no longer in gymnastics. With all of that energy needing a place to go, she began swimming competitively. In her first Paralympic Games she beat the current world record holder to win the gold medal. Since then she has taken many gold medals and is the top swimmer in the world in her class.

Jessica Long may have been born with two bad legs but no one ever told her that she had to stop. In today's world, with today's medical advancements, she has far surpassed what most swimmers can do with two perfectly healthy legs.

In the book of 2nd Samuel we meet a man, Mephibosheth that is introduced not once or twice but three times as being lame in both feet. We don't know too much about him and he is only mentioned in a couple quick places in all of scripture.

In 2 Samuel 8 we read about David and his time as King. David hasn't been king for all too long and has had great success in leading the Israelites and fighting battles. He has been defeating all that come against him. After a while he remembers his oath to Jonathan, the son of David.

1 Samuel 18:1-5

Now it came about, when he had finished speaking to Saul, that Jonathan committed himself to David, and Jonathan loved him as himself.² And Saul took him that day and did not let him return to his father's house. ³ Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. ⁴ Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his military gear, including his sword, his bow, and his belt. ⁵ And David went *into battle* wherever Saul sent him, *and always* achieved success; so Saul put him in charge of the men of war. And it was pleasing in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

David and Jonathan had made a covenant to one another to look out for each other and care for one another. It was shortly after this that Jonathan's father, King Saul, attempted to kill David on several occasions and Jonathan stood behind his covenant with David and did all he could to protect him. It is interesting to me that the love of these men for each other was so strong that even though Jonathan was the rightful heir to the throne of Israel he still protected David. Jonathan knew that God had plans for David to become king (a position that should have been his) and yet he did all he could to protect him.

In 1 Samuel 31:1-6 it tells the story of Saul and Jonathan dying at the hands of the Philistines. For the next two years Saul's son, Ish-bosheth was the king of all Israel. At the end of two years Ish-bosheth was murdered and David became king of all of Israel and Judah.

In 2 Samuel 4:4 we are introduced to a 5 year old boy.



4 Now Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who was disabled in both feet. He was five years old when the news of Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, and his nurse picked him up and fled. But it happened that in her hurry to flee, he fell and could no longer walk. This was Mephibosheth. (2 Samuel 4:4)