

Be Full: At the Table with Mephibosheth

In a desolate land, a man sat alone at his table with nothing but the thoughts in his head. As his eyes caught sight of the very thing that had caused him a life of pain, fear and shame flooded in. His broken body was an unrelenting reminder of all that could have been and all that could never be. Once an heir to the throne, now he was an outcast, rejected by the people. With enemies on every side, he was forced to remain in hiding. But even there they whispered in his ear and sat at his table. (Psalm 44:15-16.)

Mephibosheth had spent 16 years of his life ridden by false thoughts and perceptions about himself, others, and the King. But he would soon receive an invitation to dine with the One who would trade fruitlessness for abundance, desolation for joy, and emptiness for significance. At the king's table, Mephibosheth would *be full*, resting securely in his presence, feeding on his faithfulness.

1. Read 2 Samuel 9:1-4. What was David's objective? For whose sake did he seek to do this? (See 1 Samuel 18:1-4, 20:14-17, 41-42.)
2. Where would David find Saul's remaining heir? In what condition would he find him? (Consider Romans 3:23.)

The land of "*Lo Debar*" was one of "no pasture", often called "the barren land". Literally and figuratively, it was a place of fruitlessness, desolation, and emptiness. Additionally, the name "*Machir*" means "sold". (Consider Romans 7:14.)

3. According to 2 Samuel 4:4, how did the heir become this way? Who *could* he blame?
4. Read Psalm 23:5a. Where is the table? Where are the Psalmist's enemies?

How has the enemy invited himself to sit at your table? What lies has he spoken to you in an effort to destroy you, undermining your faith, joy, and peace?

5. The following statements represent how Mephibosheth may have felt. Which of these lies are presently at work in your mind? Circle all that apply. (Reserve verse look-up for later.)

1. THE ENEMY'S LIES	2. BIBLICAL TRUTH
I am weak and powerless.	2 Corinthians 12:9
I am unlovable to God and others.	Jeremiah 31:3
I can't be used by God because of my past.	Romans 8:1-2
I am worthless and irrelevant.	Deuteronomy 7:6
I am rejected and abandoned.	Ephesians 1:5
I am deficient and incomplete.	Colossians 2:10
I am alone and no one cares about me.	1 Peter 5:7
I can't have peace in my life.	John 14:27
I have no purpose in this life.	Jeremiah 29:11
I am ordinary and average.	Psalm 139:14
I have been ineffective and unsuccessful.	Philippians 4:13

6. Read 2 Samuel 9:5. Who sought the broken man? How does Luke 19:10 relate?

7. Continue reading: 2 Samuel 9, verses 6-13. Before he arrived, how might Mephibosheth have perceived the king? What reason did he have to fear?

How do our false perceptions of God keep us from Him?

8. What position did Mephibosheth take before the king? What did he call himself? (vv.6, 8) Did the king see him differently than he saw himself?

9. How did David assuage his fears? (v.6) See also Isaiah 43:1.

10. What gifts were bestowed upon Mephibosheth? Describe their significance. (If time allows, read Joel 2:25-26, Job 33:26, Psalm 23:3, 51:12, Isaiah 57:15-19, Jeremiah 30:17.)

11. Who would sit at the table with Mephibosheth?

12. Describe the relationship between the king and Mephibosheth. (v.11)

13. Turn now to Psalm 23:5a. Who is at the table? What message is the Psalmist seeking to convey through his statement?

14. Per verse 13 of 2 Samuel 9, where must Mephibosheth abide to remain free from the enemy's lies? How does this verse speak to you?

15. Return to the chart. How did David's actions silence the enemy's lies? (If time allows, record your answers in Column 2. Then, look up and record the corresponding Biblical truths in your own words.)

16. In summary, how can you refuse to allow the enemy to take a seat at your table?

¹ Chart adapted from *Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table* by Louie Giglio