



Scriptures: 2 Samuel 9:1–11 (CSB)

Main Idea: Jesus became a nobody so that you can become somebody. Just like Mephibosheth, you can receive a new identity, a new life, and a place to be honored and celebrated.

We all have moments in life that leave a mark; some good, some bad, and some that just make us want to crawl into a hole and hide. Sometimes it's something we've done, sometimes it's something said to us, and sometimes it's just the way life hits.

Let me start by asking you this: have you ever done something that was embarrassing or made you feel stupid?

[TEACHER NOTE: Tell an embarrassing story. Here's my example: I remember playing high school soccer. Our team wasn't great, but I loved being the goalkeeper. One game stands out: we were facing one of the few schools we could beat. I was positioned at midfield when my teammate passed the ball to me. I completely missed it, and the other team scored. It was so embarrassing!]

Maybe you've been there too; done something that made you feel stupid. Or perhaps someone said something mean that humiliated you, and their hurtful words stuck with you. Or maybe you haven't done anything wrong, but people have labeled or misunderstood you, and you feel like a nobody.

Whatever the circumstance, remember this: you are never alone. There are people who understand exactly how it feels, want to be there for you, and help you realize there is hope.

The guy in our story today knows that feeling all too well, and on top of that, he has a really funny name. His name is Mephibosheth. Can you say that

three times fast? [TEACHER NOTE: Pause for students to try.] We'll see if I can get through this message without tripping over his name!

Let's pray before we dive in. [Pray here.]

Here's what you need to know before we read the story:

1. David was king.
2. Saul was king before David and he had a son named Jonathan, who was David's best friend.
3. Saul became jealous because he knew David would one day be king, and so he tried to kill David many times. Jonathan remained loyal to David, even though it meant standing against his own father.

We pick up the story *after* David had become king. Unfortunately, both Saul and Jonathan had died. Enter Mephibosheth. Let's read what happened next.

Turn to 2 Samuel 9:1-11(CSB) in your Bibles.

David's Kindness to Mephibosheth

1 David asked, "Is there anyone remaining from the family of Saul I can show kindness to for Jonathan's sake?"

2 There was a servant of Saul's family named Ziba. They summoned him to David, and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?"

"I am your servant," he replied.

3 So the king asked, "Is there anyone left of Saul's family that I can show the kindness of God to?"

Ziba said to the king, "There is still Jonathan's son who was injured in both feet."

4 The king asked him, "Where is he?"

Ziba answered the king, "You'll find him in Lo-debar at the house of Machir son of Ammiel."

5 So King David had him brought from the house of Machir son of Ammiel in Lo-debar.

6 Mephibosheth son of Jonathan son of Saul came to David, fell facedown, and paid homage. David said, "Mephibosheth!"

"I am your servant," he replied.

7 "Don't be afraid," David said to him, "since I intend to show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all your grandfather Saul's fields, and you will always eat meals at my table."

8 Mephibosheth paid homage and said, "What is your servant that you take an interest in a dead dog like me?"

9 Then the king summoned Saul's attendant Ziba and said to him, "I have given to your master's grandson all that belonged to Saul and his family.

10 You, your sons, and your servants are to work the ground for him, and you are to bring in the crops so your master's grandson will have food to eat. But Mephibosheth, your master's grandson, is always to eat at my table."

Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

11 Ziba said to the king, "Your servant will do all my lord the king commands."

So Mephibosheth ate at David's table just like one of the king's sons.

Because Jonathan had such a deep impact on David, David often thought about his friend even after he had died. That's why, in verse 1, David asked if there was anyone left in Saul's family to whom he could show kindness—for Jonathan's sake. One of Saul's servants, Ziba, reported that Jonathan's son Mephibosheth was still alive, but that Mephibosheth was injured in both feet.

David sent for Mephibosheth, who—when he arrived at the palace—fell facedown and trembled in fear. If you were Mephibosheth, you'd probably have been terrified too. Why? Because the custom was that a new king would eliminate any surviving family members of the previous king to secure his throne. Mephibosheth likely thought David had called him to the palace only to kill him.

But instead of executing him, David said in verse 7, *"Don't be afraid, since I intend to show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all your grandfather Saul's fields, and you will always eat meals at my table"* (CSB). Mephibosheth moved instantly from fear to relief

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