

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2025.09.28

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Robbie Moreland

Title: The Great Example

Recording:



Speaker-PM: Brad Bunyard

Title: Redemption

Recording:



Jesus the Great Example - Action and Invitation

- Will you respond and remember Jesus's example when others ask for help?
- Will you respond and remember Jesus's example when an opportunity to teach comes up?
- Will you hold strong and remember Jesus's example when temptations or tough times come up?
- Will you hold strong and remember Jesus's example in every action, decision, or event?



In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

Ephesians 1:7

Articles

Mephibosheth, 9/28/2025 By Josh Vinyard

2 Samuel 4:4 mentions that Jonathan had a son named Mephibosheth. It doesn't tell us much. It tells us his name, Mephibosheth. It tells us of his calamity, that he was dropped by his nurse. It tells us about his deformity; he was crippled and then the text moves on. Well, who was this boy? Why is his story in the Scriptures?

When we put the pieces together, we learn that Mephibosheth was the son of Jonathan. After Saul and Jonathan died in battle, it seems that Mephibosheth's nurse heard that news and was fearful that David might kill any potential heirs to the throne. Although there is no indication that David would have done anything like this, the nurse in her hurry to flee to safety dropped the five-year-old boy and permanently crippled his legs. As Mephibosheth grew up, David's kingdom flourished and prospered. His kingdom grew six times in size, he brought the ark of the covenant back to Jerusalem, and he was proving to be a good king. At some point, something prompted David to turn to his servants and ask, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul, so that I could show him kindness for Jonathan's sake" (2 Sam. 9:1)? Something had caused him to remember his promise to his friend Jonathan (1 Sam. 20:14-16).

There just happened to be a servant of the house of Saul close by who then tells David about Jonathan's son named Mephibosheth. There is no hint that this is a political move. No hint that David is doing this to be applauded by his people. Just a friend remembering perhaps when he was weak and needed help. David sent some people to help Mephibosheth and had him brought to his house (2 Sam. 9:1-8). Mephibosheth, upon seeing David, fell on his face and said, "here is your servant." Apparently, he was visibly afraid because David tells him not to be afraid (v. 7). David restores everything that belonged to Saul and gives it to Mephibosheth. He sets people up to work his land for him, and the Bible tells us that he ate at the king's table regularly.

Four different times in 2 Samuel 9, David insisted that Mephibosheth eat at his table (vs. 7, 10, 11, 13). Charles Swindoll gives us a picture of what this table might have looked at the time that David extended his grace to Mephibosheth. "The dinner bell rings through the king's palace and David comes to the head of the table and sits down. In a few moments, clever, crafty Amnon, sits to the left of David. Lovely and gracious Tamar, a charming and beautiful young woman, arrives and sits next to Amnon. And then across the way, Solomon walks slowly from his study; precocious, brilliant, preoccupied Solomon. The heir apparent slowly sits down. And then Absalom – handsome, winsome Absalom with beautiful flowing hair, black as a raven, down to his shoulders – sits down. That particular evening, Joab, the courageous warrior and David's commander of troops, has been invited to dinner. Muscular, bronzed Joab is seated near the king. Afterward they wait. They hear the shuffling of feet, the clump, clump, clump, of the crutches as Mephibosheth awkwardly finds his place at the table and slips into his seat and a tablecloth covers his feet¹." (*The Grace Awakening*. Thomas Nelson. 2010, chapter 4)

I ask you: did Mephibosheth understand grace? Do you see our place in this story? Christ calls us to take a permanent seat at His table. If we are all honest, we too limp more often than we walk. There is a family therapist named Paul Faulkner who tells of a man who set out to adopt a troubled teenage girl. The girl was destructive, disobedient, and dishonest. One day she came home from school and trashed the house looking for money. By the time he arrived, she was gone, and the house was a mess. Upon hearing about this, his friends urged him not to finalize the adoption. "After all, she's not your real daughter." His response was, yes, I know, but I told her that she was. Romans 5 and verse 8, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

The father didn't look at the wrecked house and say, "Come back when you have learned respect." David didn't tell Mephibosheth, "I will rescue you when you have learned to walk." Christ doesn't look at our messed-up lives and say, "I will die for you when you deserve it." There is room for one more seat! We simply have to trust like Mephibosheth did. If we then repent and keep God's commandments and love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, we will sit at God's table for all eternity.