

LOW PLACES

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2 Samuel 9

¹David asked, "Is there anyone remaining from the family of Saul I can show kindness to for Jonathan's sake?" ²There 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. ³So 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."

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2 Samuel 9

⁴The 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." ⁵So King David had him brought from the house of Machir son of Ammiel in Lo-debar. ⁶Mephibosheth son of Jonathan son of Saul came to David, fell facedown, and paid homage. David said, "Mephibosheth!" "I am your servant," he replied.

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2 Samuel 9

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

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2 Samuel 9

⁹Then 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. ¹⁰You, 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."

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¹¹Ziba 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.¹²Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Mica. All those living in Ziba’s house were Mephibosheth’s servants.¹³However, Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem because he always ate at the king’s table. His feet had been injured.”

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Two Sections (v1–13)

1. Pursuit (v1–6)

2. Restoration (v7–13)

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Pursuit

- David takes it upon himself to honor his word (verse 1)
- David summons Ziba to locate Mephibosheth (verses 2-5)
- David embraces Mephibosheth (verse 6)

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Restoration

- Receives grace from David (verse 7 and 8)
- David goes above and beyond. (verse 9 and 10)
- Restoration leads to fellowship (verse 11-13)

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1 Samuel 20

¹⁴“If I continue to live, show me kindness from the Lord, but if I die, ¹⁵don’t ever withdraw your kindness from my household — not even when the Lord cuts off every one of David’s enemies from the face of the earth.”

- David honoring Jonathan’s request to never withdraw kindness

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

– David exemplifies what it means to be a leader. To be a man after the Lord.

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Real Man from a Biblical Mold

1. Rejects Passivity
2. Accepts Responsibility
3. Leads Courageously
4. Expects the greater reward, God's reward

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Name Significance

Mephibosheth (Bosheth) — Shame — “from the mouth of shame / dispeller of shame”

Lo Debar — Hebrew words “Lo” and “dabar”

Lo — “no” or “not”

Dabar — “word,” “thing,” or “pasture”

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2 Samuel 17

²⁷When David came to Mahanaim, Shobi son of Nahash from Rabbah of the Ammonites, Machir son of Ammiel from Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim ²⁸brought beds, basins, and pottery items. They also brought wheat, barley, flour, roasted grain, beans, lentils, ²⁹honey, curds, sheep, goats, and cheese from the herd for David and the people with him to eat. They had reasoned, “The people must be hungry, exhausted, and thirsty in the wilderness.”

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2 Samuel 4

–Why did we find Mephibosheth here?

4“Saul’s son Jonathan had a son whose feet were crippled. He was five years old when the report about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel. His nanny picked him up and fled, but as she was hurrying to flee, he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth.”

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Land and a Seat

- The gift of land restored his inheritance providing long term security, status, and care for his family.
- The seat he received removed his shame and gave him belonging, a relationship and continual access to the king.

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Gospel

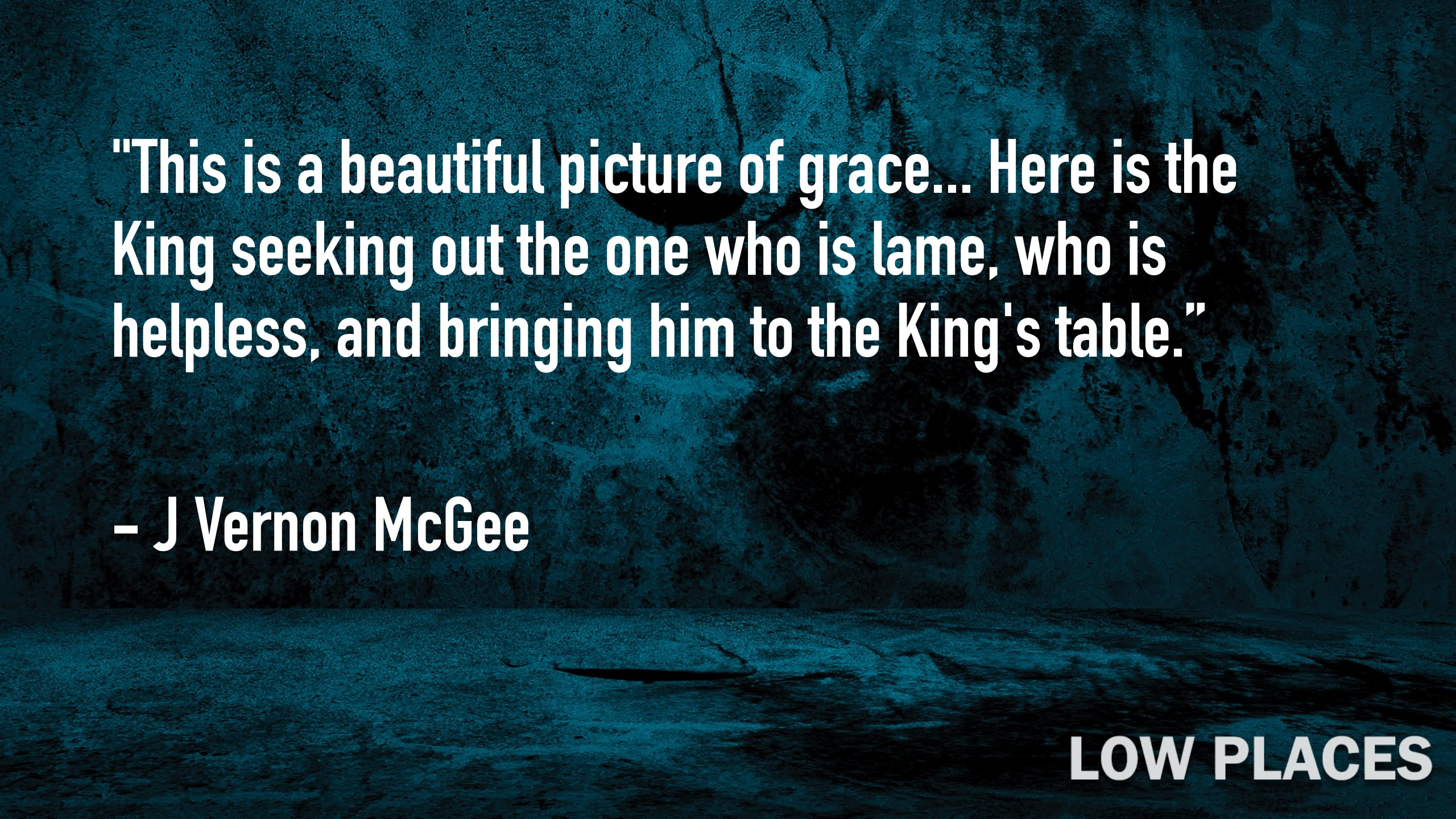
1. Mephibosheth was separated
2. Mephibosheth was undeserving
3. Mephibosheth received an inheritance
4. Mephibosheth ate at the king's table

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The Gospel for Us

1. You and I are separated from Christ
2. You and I are undeserving of His grace
3. You and I are seated with Christ
4. You and I eternally fellowship with Christ

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"This is a beautiful picture of grace... Here is the King seeking out the one who is lame, who is helpless, and bringing him to the King's table."

– J Vernon McGee

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Ephesians 2

⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, ⁵made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! ⁶He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

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Ephesians 2

⁸For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift — ⁹not from works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

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