

Easters 2026

**2 Samuel 4:4, 9:1–8, 13**

**The broken find belonging when seated at the King's table**

**OPEN**

- Do you believe your life could change today?
- That you can leave here different than when you came in?
- It can. God does it all the time to people. He's no respecter of persons...
- He did it for a character in the Bible and He will do it for you too.

***Vs 1 And David said, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"***

- Let me catch you up to speed of what has happened to get us here.
- The prophet Samuel anointed a teenage shepherd named David
- God's plan is to take David from the pasture to the palace
- Soon after, David slayed the giant and became famous
- Then he was invited into king Saul's palace
- Where he met Jonathan which is important to this story.
- They became best friends and Jonathan risked his life to save David's
- Jonathan asked for David to make him a promise:

**1 Samuel 20:14–17 (ESV) 14** *If I am still alive, show me the steadfast love of the LORD, that I may not die; 15 and do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever, when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth."* **16** *And Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the LORD take vengeance on David's enemies."* **17** *And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul.*

- Years later, Jonathan and Saul died in a war
- David assumes the throne, makes Jerusalem the capitol, builds his palace there and...
- 10-15 years later, he remembers his promise to his friend Jonathan who risked his life for him

***Vs 1 And David said, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"***

- The word 'kindness' in the original Hebrew language is *Hesed*
- *Hesed* is often translated "steadfast love of God" – *His steadfast love endures forever*
- This concept is rooted in covenant... God's covenant love for His people.

- Covenant isn't a contract.
- Contracts are contingent up both parties holding up their promises – if one party fails, the other party is no longer bound to their promises.
- Covenant says, “even if you DON'T hold up your end of the bargain, I will keep my promises.
- That is God's hesed, His steadfast love toward His people based on HIS promise to save and love them, not on ours based on our merit.
- David was saying, I want to bless someone with kindness, based on my promise to Jonathan, not based on someone worthy to receive it.

*Vs 2-3 Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David. And the king said to him, “Are you Ziba?” And he said, “I am your servant.” 3 And the king said, “Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?” Ziba said to the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet.”*

- Jonathan's son's name is Mephibosheth.
- He is known for two things: son of a dead prince and a broken man. (2Sam 4:)
- It's interesting that Mephibosheth is mentioned in the book of 1Chronicles but that his name shows up as Merib-baal.
- That name means “the one who contends with Baal” (or “Baal contends for me”).
- In other words, he fought his demons.
- Let's get this picture:
- He was born into royalty, grandson of King Saul, son of Jonathan – the future is bright. But life fell apart.
- A tragic fall left him lame in both feet – his identify is no longer royalty but ruined. He went from honor to shame.
- But 2 Samuel refers to him as Mephibosheth which means, breaker of shame!
- Shame is an identity thing. Guilt is I did something bad; shame is I am something bad.

- Do you ever feel like you are not enough? A failure, Can't quite live up to others' expectations? That is shame.
- Mephibosheth surely felt that way: "I'm broken, forgotten, future is bright but it's bleak."

**Vs 4** *The king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar."*

- Significance of Lo-debar – no bread, no pastures, barren, desolate.
- He was broken, forgotten, abandoned, fighting demons, living in a place of no bread, not fed, not led ... but, he wasn't dead.
- Because he wasn't dead, God wasn't done.

**Vs 5** *Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar.*

- The King sent for Him – and the King of kings is sending for you today.
- David is blessing him not because of him – nor his potential, his moral character, etc.
- Everything screams – don't bless him, he is in a bad place... but David is deciding to bless based on covenant –kindness, hesed.
- God is calling for you today as well – not based on your merit but based on His covenant.

**Vs 6-7** *And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, "Mephibosheth!" And he answered, "Behold, I am your servant." 7 And David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always."*

- Why was he fearful? It was customary for new kings to kill every family member of the old regime.
- His life was changed in a moment

In the ancient world, eating at the king's table was far more than just having a meal. It was one of the highest honors a person could receive. It meant:

- **Acceptance and belonging** — You were no longer an outsider or enemy. You were family.
  - Enjoyment at the table, being at the table has produced memories for our family, still are... no one is upset or discontent at the table.
- **Security**— Once you ate at the king’s table, no one could touch you without attacking the king himself.
- **Provision and honor** — You received the best food, the best care, and a permanent place of privilege.
- **Intimate relationship** — You sat close to the king, talked with him, and enjoyed fellowship with him regularly. AND The TABLE is BIG... filled with others – face to face
- The most significant thing about sitting at this table was that his brokenness was covered by the table.
- And every time Mephibosheth took his seat, his lame feet were hidden under that table of grace. Shame didn’t get the last word. (no longer Merib-baal but breaker of shame)
- He was no longer Jonathan’s son - the broken, he was Davids adopted son made to belong

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*8 And he paid homage and said, “What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?”*

- Mephibosheth’s life had become so bad that he believed he was a dead dog.
- The King summoned a man who had it all, lost it, was broken, full of shame, contending with demons, living in a barren land.... Not fed, no bread, not led... BUT NOT DEAD.
- If you’re not dead, God’s not done.
- We are Mephibosheth, unworthy to come to the kings table yet summoned anyway.

### **The broken find belonging when seated at the King’s table**

Come to the table to have your sin, brokenness covered by the grace of Jesus

...And maybe you’re sitting here thinking, *That’s me.*

I’m shamed because...

- my marriage blew up, or I walked away from God for years, or I have a past I’m terrified someone in this room will find out about...

- OR I'm shamed because I've been in church since I was five, I've done all the right things, but I still feel like a fake—never quite measuring up, always afraid I'm disappointing God and everyone else.
- **Come to the table**

I've been living in a barren land because...

- the job dried up, the diagnosis came, the kids walked away, the grief won't lift, and every day feels like Lo-debar—no pasture, no joy, just survival...
- OR I've been living in a barren land because life's been pretty decent on the outside—steady job, good family, Sunday attendance—but inside it's dry. The worship songs don't touch me anymore, prayer feels like a checklist, and I secretly wonder if this is all there is.
- **Come to the table**

I've fought with the devil in the area of...

- addiction, rage, lust, unbelief after the worst thing happened... depression
- OR perfectionism, comparison, anxiety that I'm not doing enough for God, pride that hides behind a smile and a perfect attendance pin.
- **Come to the table**

I'm broken because...

- the accident, the abuse, the betrayal, the choices I can't undo left me limping—literally or emotionally...
- OR I'm broken because years of serving, giving, and “doing church right” left me burned out, exhausted, and quietly resentful, even though everyone thinks I've got it all together.
- **Come to the table**

We are all broken –

- Secret hatred, pet sins, impure thought life, broken sexuality, addictive disorders, If someone finds you who you really are you would admit you're a fraud.
- If somehow we could use AI to broadcast your private thought in movie form on the screen this morning – you'd be like, “yeah... I'm broken”
- We are all sinners – sin isn't merely ‘bad stuff you do’ its living your life without God – Its saying, “I own me.” “I may not be much, but I'm all I've got.”
- We are all Mephibosheth – King David knew all about his brokenness yet still sent for him.

**The King already knows all about you... and He still sends for you.**

- He doesn't wait until you fixed the limp.
- He doesn't wait until the shame felt smaller.
- He doesn't wait until your Lo-debar turned green again.

- David sent messengers while Mephibosheth was still lame, still ashamed, still hiding in the barren place.
- And your King—Jesus—is doing the exact same thing this Easter morning.
- Because when the King invites you in, He doesn't come for your potential—He comes for His own name's sake and for the covenant love He swore before you ever failed or succeeded.

**So hear the risen King's summons today:**

**“Come home. Take your seat at My table. Your shame died with Me on Friday. Your new name rose with Me on Sunday.**

- You are no longer defined by what broke you... You are now the shame-breaker in Christ.”
- HOW?
- Jesus the greater Jonathan didn't merely risk his life to save us, He GAVE his life to save us .... Save us from brokenness, our Lo Debar, and our enemy – invited us into HIS Kingdom, and to HIS table where we are covered by a covenant grace.
- Mephibosheth didn't deserve all this, but Jonathan did. Jonathan's work is imputed (credited, assigned) to Mephibosheth...
- Now Jesus' work is credited to us. The Father says, “You don't deserve this... but because of what the greater Jonathan did, I'm going to treat you like my own son.”
- God the Father invites us to the table because of Jesus' work – receive it. Bow down, 'Lord, I'm your servant.' Then enjoy the blessings, enjoy the table.
- What kindness (Hesed).... His Kindness leads to repentance
- What does HIS table look like today? **God's table is His word, prayer and community**
- What does this have to do with Easter?
- Mephibosheth's journey from Lo-Debar to Jerusalem was a hard, painful, fearful journey for him: he didn't know if he should be excited or if he would be executed – was he headed for feasting or fatality? He was living in tension between the Kings' summon and the Kings Table.

- The travel was about 70 miles - the travel time? ... 3 days.
- That was the disciples,' 'Saturday!' The 3 Jewish days of waiting? The time in-between tragedy and triumph. Maybe you are in your own 'Saturday' right now - caught in the gap of fear, grief, waiting, discouragement...
- Take heart. The King has sent for you, not for you to suffer more tragedy (second death) but invited into triumph (forever life) - you've just got to trust the king.

*Vs 13 So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate always at the king's table. Now he was lame in both his feet.*

- Two things are true here: He's at the table and he's still broken – the effects of the fall are still with him.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

- "Come to Me... I have prepared a place for you" (John 14:2-3, echoed)
- And one day soon it becomes the table John saw in Revelation 19:9—the **Marriage Supper of the Lamb**: "Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb!"
- Because of the resurrection, there will be a day when – 2 Things... we are at the kings table and **made whole** (no longer broken)
- Baptisms are a picture of that. Think about that all day today when you remember seeing your loved one or friend baptized today.
- There will be your loved ones gone before you and after you at that table – made whole.
- **If you're not dead, God's not done:**
- **The broken find belonging when seated at the King's table**
- **And on that Revelation 19 day, you have the full belonging without the brokenness.**

QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS:

1. In what ways can you identify with Mephibosheth? (broken, shame, fighting the enemy, ec.)
2. What does answering King Jesus' call to His table look like for you? (come as you are, community, prayer/Word, repentance, worship?)
3. Discuss what God's covenant (based on His promise not your merit) to love and keep you means for you.