

**20:20 Vision Ministries -- Devotions by Roger Browning**  
**Week 48 (November 24-30, 2013)**

All who are born again have the divine privilege of having a seat at the Lord's Table in His kingdom. I can think of no better way to illustrate this during the Thanksgiving week than with the story of Mephibosheth, the son of David's best friend, Jonathan. You may want to read all of 1 Samuel 20 for more information on their close friendship.

**Sunday** -- November 24 (1 Samuel 20:14-17)

This text takes place during one of the times when jealous King Saul (Jonathan's father) is trying to kill David, God's chosen successor to the throne of Israel (see 1 Samuel 16:1-13). Jonathan is going to help David escape from his father's grasp, but he wants the future king to promise him on oath that he will provide for his family (v. 14-15). Many kings of that day killed off their predecessor's entire bloodline upon taking office. David promises on oath and makes a covenant with Jonathan, because he loves his best friend dearly. Because of the evil times in which we live, some recent writers have tried to make this into a homosexual issue, but their love is a true, deep and Godly friendship. This story is a beautiful reminder of the relationship we, as Christians, have with our Heavenly Father. He has promised to provide for our families if we give our hearts to Him (see Acts 16:31). Claim this promise today and experience the joy of living under His authority.

**Monday** -- November 25 (1 Samuel 23:15-18; 24:16-22)

The first text in our study comes as a result of the oath David and Jonathan have taken (yesterday's devotion). King Saul is planning to take David's life before he can replace Saul as king of Israel. Saul's son is under oath to warn David, but he goes much further by helping him find strength in God (v. 15-16). Do you have a friend like that? We, like David, often need a reminder of our position in Christ Jesus. Start seeking someone in your life who can remind you of God's oath and His promises from His Word. You will be glad you did when the coming trials arrive. The second text in today's study takes place after David has spared Saul's life (24:1-15). The reigning king makes an insincere apology for trying to kill the future king (v. 16-20). He requests an oath from David that his family will be provided for when his own kingdom comes to an end (v. 21). God's man obliges, reaffirming the oath he has already made with Saul's son, Jonathan (v. 22).

**Tuesday** -- November 26 (2 Samuel 4:4)

Today's text introduces us to Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan. Saul and three of his sons, including Jonathan, had been killed in battle when the Philistines routed the Israelites (see 1 Samuel 31:1-6). David had been named King of Judah in Hebron (see 2 Samuel 2:1-4), but Saul's other son, Ish-bosheth, had taken his seat on the throne over the rest of Israel, thus dividing the kingdom (2 Samuel 2:8). Because of our high-tech medical facilities, it may be hard for us to imagine that a child could be permanently crippled from a fall at the age of five. Mephibosheth's nurse probably thought that Jonathan's son would be executed since the child's grandfather was no longer ruling in Israel. After all, a **crippled child** would not be eligible to be king anyway. A beautiful story of mercy and grace is about to unfold for us. It pictures our lost condition and the Father's plan to seat us at His table.

**Wednesday** -- November 27 (2 Samuel 9:1-7)

David wants to honor the oaths he made to Saul and Jonathan, so he asks if there is anyone left in their family line (v. 1). They bring to him a man named Ziba who is a servant to Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth (v. 2-3). Note that Ziba identifies his master by his infirmity. Maybe someone has pointed out your weakest quality while introducing you to a friend. Can you imagine the fear that this young crippled man has when the reigning king summons him to appear before him? He bows before David in fear and respect (v. 4-6). The king reassures Mephibosheth that he does not need to be afraid. Instead of harming him, David restores all the land belonging to Saul and gives the young man a seat at his personal table (v. 7). Wow! What a beautiful picture of our salvation through Jesus Christ! We deserve nothing but death and hell (Romans 3:23 & 6:23), but God has given us a seat at His table! Praise His Name as we head toward Thanksgiving Day tomorrow.

**Thursday** -- November 28 (2 Samuel 9:8-12)

This is the perfect day to enjoy such a heartwarming text. Mephibosheth realizes that he is not worthy of the honor bestowed upon him (v. 8). David gives instructions to the young man's servant and reminds Ziba that his master will always eat at the king's table (v. 9-10). Several Thanksgiving thoughts come to mind as I meditate on this text: 1) We, like Mephibosheth, are unworthy to come to eat at God's table; 2) We have also been supplied with our daily bread from the King's table; 3) We have become **joint-heirs** with God's Son, Jesus (see Romans 8:17) through the grace of our Lord; and 4) We, like Mephibosheth, are crippled in both feet and could never walk with Jesus without Him holding our hand. Dedicate some special time on this Thanksgiving Day to thank God for His **mercy** and His **grace**. You are seated at the King's table with His only Son!

**Friday** -- November 29 (2 Samuel 16:1-4)

Today's scene takes place as David is fleeing from his rebellious son, Absalom. Ziba sees a chance to undermine his crippled master, so he brings lots of supplies to the king as he leaves Jerusalem (v. 1-2). He lies about the whereabouts of Mephibosheth, accusing him of wanting to take back his grandfather's kingdom (v. 3). David believes his story and assigns all of Mephibosheth's possessions to Ziba (v. 4). Even as believers, we, like David, can make a wrong decision based on faulty information. That's why a lie is a terrible sin to commit against your fellow man. It causes even good, well-meaning people to err. Mephibosheth has every reason to be angry and revengeful, but he has learned a lot about mercy and grace from King David. We will see tomorrow how he applies the lessons he has learned.

**Saturday** -- November 30 (2 Samuel 19:24-30)

As today's text unfolds, Absalom has been defeated and killed (2 Samuel 18:1-15) and David and his men are returning home from battle. Mephibosheth comes out to meet his king and hears a sad question (v. 25), "Why didn't you go with me, Mephibosheth?" He tells David about the lie and slander delivered against him by Ziba and humbly refuses to make any more requests of the king (v. 26-28). For some unknown reason, David commands Ziba to divide the fields that he had wrongfully obtained (v. 29). Mephibosheth wants nothing except the knowledge that his king has arrived home safely (v. 30). That should be enough for us as well! We have been forgiven of our sins and given our daily bread. The only thing we should be looking for is the return of our King Jesus back to earth to set up His Kingdom where He will allow us to eat with Him at His table.