

Unmerited Favor to Mephibosheth

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Scene Summary

The play, “Unmerited Favor To Mephibosheth” tells the story of a transformation from rags to riches, illustrating covenant love. The scenes include Mephibosheth running away from the soldiers, then falling and becoming crippled... going into hiding, fearing for his life...then David becomes king and there is peace in the land...David remembers his good friend Jonathan and how they had made a covenant together to bless each other...David searches the land for someone left from Jonathan’s family...Mephibosheth is located and brought before David...expecting to be killed, instead Mephibosheth is blessed and made like one of David’s own sons.

Scripture

(2 Sam 4:4 NIV) (Jonathan son of Saul had a son who was lame in both feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel. His nurse picked him up and fled, but as she hurried to leave, he fell and became crippled. His name was Mephibosheth.)

(2 Sam 9 NIV) David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?" {2} Now there was a servant of Saul's household named Ziba. They called him to appear before David, and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" "Your servant," he replied. {3} The king asked, "Is there no one still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?" Ziba answered the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet." {4} "Where is he?" the king asked. Ziba answered, "He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar." {5} So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel. {6} When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor. David said, "Mephibosheth!" "Your servant," he replied. {7} "Don't be afraid," David said to him, "for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table." {8} Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?" {9} Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. {10} You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master's grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table." (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty

servants.) {11} Then Ziba said to the king, "Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table like one of the king's sons. {12} Mephibosheth had a young son named Mica, and all the members of Ziba's household were servants of Mephibosheth. {13} And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king's table, and he was crippled in both feet.

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Players

- **Narrator** – The play's "catechist" or teacher, should be a good reader with a clear voice.
- **Mephibosheth** – (Me-**feeb**-o-sheth) This person is cripple. The actor must use the cane or crutch to convince the audience that walking is very difficult. Mephibosheth was probably unable to walk.
- **King David** – This should be a person should command authority.
- **Ziba** – This person should be devious and somewhat sneaky, with a voice that is difficult to trust.
- **Soldier** – These are people with authority, carrying weapons.
- **Servants** – These people have non-speaking parts and bring in food for the table.

Special Props

- Normal items from the prop box such as cloaks, veils, robes and headdresses.
- A cane or crutch for Mephibosheth.
- Swords or spears for the soldiers.
- A crown for King David.

Script - Unmerited Favor to Mephibosheth

[Opening scene the stage is clear. There is noise of fighting offstage, noise of swords clashing, men shouting, a battle going on, then taper off when the narrator begins to speak. The narrator comes onstage and crosses to where the noise is coming from.]

Narrator: There was war in the land with the Philistines. King Saul and his sons were killed on Mount Gilboa. The fighting continued and the people fled.

[A servant comes running across the stage followed by Mephibosheth.]

Servant: [excited] Hurry, Mephibosheth! Run for your life! They are going to kill us too!

[Mephibosheth runs out onstage, but stumbles and falls down crying. The servant runs back and helps get the child across and off stage. Soldier noise goes away.]

Narrator: David defeated the Philistines and became king of all the land.

[David comes to center stage with his soldiers.]

David: [sadly] I miss my friend Jonathan. We promised each other to be friends forever. [Motioning with his hand to a servant who comes in and bows down] Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake? Go and see.

[Servant goes offstage, then returns with Ziba]

Servant: King David, I have found a servant of Saul named Ziba.

David: [motions for Ziba to come forward] Are you Ziba?

Ziba: [bowing down] Your servant.

David: Is there no one still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?

Ziba: There is still a son of Jonathan. He is crippled in both feet.

David: Where is he?

Ziba: He is at the house of Makir, son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar.

David: [to the soldiers nearby] Go to the house of Makir, son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar and bring Mephibosheth here to me.

[The soldiers leave and then come back with Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth falls down before King David]

David: [happy] Mephibosheth!

Mephibosheth: [trembling] Your servant.

David: Don't be afraid, for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul and you will always eat at my table.

Mephibosheth: [bowed down] What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?

David: [calling out] Ziba, come here. [Ziba comes and bows] I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master's grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table.

Ziba: [bowing again] Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do.

Narrator: So, Mephibosheth ate at David's table like one of the king's sons.

The End

Supplemental Information

This story teaches us about covenant love. Mephibosheth was born into the royal family, but as a child became crippled. His family was wiped out and he went into hiding. David became king instead of Saul. David remembered the covenant he and Saul's son Jonathan had made. David wanted to show loving kindness to someone in Jonathan's family. A search was made and Mephibosheth was brought before the king. Trembling, Mephibosheth expected to be imprisoned or killed, but instead David part of his family, to eat at his table and to live in the king's palace. Mephibosheth's life is an illustration for us of God's unmerited grace in the covenant love of Our Lord Jesus Christ.