

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

July 31

### MONDAY

Those around David in positions of authority are listed here: military leaders Joab and Benaiah; priests Zadok and Ahimelech; cabinet members Jehoshaphat and Seraiah; and David's own sons, who were the chief rulers (maybe something like interns).

**READ: II Samuel 8:16-18**

Matthew Henry connects this passage to God appointing us to various functions within the church body, and using the gifts He has given us. I will seldom choose to argue with Matthew Henry, and certainly not here! So let's be reminded of how amazing it is that whatever position we may find ourselves in within the Church body, it's at God's appointment! We have been appointed by Him for a specific purpose.

### TUESDAY

David searched for a relative of Saul whom he could befriend for Jonathan's sake. He located Ziba, a former servant in Saul's household, and Ziba told David that one of Jonathan's sons was still living. Ziba went on to explain that Saul's son was lame.

**READ: II Samuel 9:1-4**

This all happened years after David became king. Mephibosheth was but five when his father was killed on the battlefield with King Saul, but now, he has a son himself. In other words, despite pledges and vows between friends that they would take care of family, David has let many years slip by, doing nothing. (these two are Jonathan's only living relatives) But, at last, David acts! David's determination to do the right thing catches our attention. Stephen's speech in Acts 8 refers to David as one who *served his own generation*. Is that not a title we would greatly desire to earn? Well, today is another day with other chances to serve. Let us determine to do so.

### WEDNESDAY

King David asked where the lame son of Jonathan was. Ziba, the former servant of Saul now assisting David, told him that he was living in the house of Machir in Lodebar.

**READ: II Samuel 9:4**

Despite his royal heritage, Mephibosheth is living in Lodebar, a village in Gilead on the far side of the Jordan River. In other words, he's a forgotten person in a forsaken land. (see vs. 8) He's been staying in the house of Machir, who appears to be a generous man who cared for the disposed heir. Later, Machir is named as one who had supplied David with his personal needs. That's all we know about him, but what a great thing to be known for: he's one who cares for others! That's a reputation worth getting!

### THURSDAY

Learning that there was a surviving son of Jonathan, David sent for him. The son (his name was Mephibosheth, remember) came before David and bowed down, honoring the king. David greeted him by name, and Mephibosheth replied, "I'm your servant."

**READ: II Samuel 9:5-6**

Despite not knowing why the King had summoned him, and undoubtedly thinking that

it might simply be to kill him, and put an end to the family line of Saul. (for that's what other kings would have done, and in vs.7, David tells him not to be afraid, so he must have been afraid of something!) The best application might be that we do well not to worry about things we really don't know about - things that may or may not happen. Tomorrow has enough of its own troubles, Jesus said. Do not worry about it today! To worry about things is to not trust God. It's that simple. Trust God and do not worry!

### FRIDAY

David told Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, of his intentions. He said he intended to restore to him all the land that once belonged to his family, and that Mephibosheth could eat at the king's table each day.

**READ: II Samuel 9:7-8**

Eating at the king's table was a big deal! It meant much more than great food and outstanding service (we can get those things at the *Black Horse Diner!*). It meant being in the presence of the king on a daily basis! It meant being treated like one of the family! And it pictures for us what God invites us to do in glory - to join him at the banqueting table! Just think of it: God invites us to be a part of His family in His presence forever! We cannot think about the banqueting table without remembering that He bids us invite others to join Him there as well. *That the feasting room may be filled*. Today, we invite. On that great day when Jesus calls us home, we eat with the King!

### SATURDAY

David notified Ziba, the household servant who had located Jonathan's son, that he personally would be in charge of Mephibosheth's care. Ziba and his 15 sons and 20 servants needed to plan on farming, and supplying the food, but, David also tells him that Mephibosheth will eat at the king's table.

**READ: II Samuel 9:9-10**

Look what happens here: 1) Mephibosheth and his son are well cared for by Ziba, the former servant of Saul; 2) Ziba and his entire household are honored; and 3) David's own esteem in the eyes of the people, who see all this going on, is heightened. We can hear the good citizens of the land saying to one another, "Who but David would extend such kindness to one in the line of the former king? What a guy!" God put it into David's heart to carry out a vow, and David obeyed the Lord. Who knows what God has for us as we obey Him today!!

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