

“It’s Time To Take Your Seat”
(2 Samuel 9:1-11)
October 9, 2016

INTRODUCTION:

- David had become King of Israel and possessor of all territories pertaining to his Kingdom.
- He had conquered his enemies and his reputation preceded him as a victorious warrior.
- This is a beautiful demonstration of the operation of THE SPIRIT OF RECONCILIATION and the SPIRIT OF ADOPTION working in the life of one man named, MEPHIBOSHETH
- The STORY of A KING bringing a person living a DESOLATE EXISTENCE into a NEW LIFE with a FUTURE and a HOPE
- **“IT’S TIME TO TAKE YOUR SEAT”**

I. LIVING IN LODEBAR:

- The name means: Pastureless, desolate, derogatory term meaning lack of enlightenment, stupidity
- It was a place OF NO HOPE - Connotation in Hebrew = “no means no.” NO HOPE!
- **MEPHIBOSHETH = dispeller of shame; SHAME NO MORE, BUT HE WAS CRIPPLED NOTE: The emotional frustration an pain of knowing your name means one thing, but your condition prohibits you from experiencing anything like what it implies! (Like Abraham; childless for 20 years...)**

SHAME: = feeling of being **flawed** and therefore **unworthy** of being loved and belonging

- Different from GUILT - has to do with WHAT YOU’VE DONE
- Shame relates to WHO YOU ARE, OR PERCEIVE YOURSELF TO BE

LIFE IN LODEBAR:

FEARFUL - His nurse fled to this place when his grandfather Saul and father Jonathan were killed in battle. SHE DROPPED HIM when he was 5 years old - crippled his feet. **SO HE WAS VICTIMIZED BY THE ACTIONS OF OTHERS; INNOCENT, BUT BEING FORCED TO LIVE AS A VICTIM OF CIRCUMSTANCES FOR WHICH HE HAD NO RESPONSIBILITY**

FATHERLESS - His grandfather and father were killed in battle! Grew up fatherless! This resulted in a **LOST SENSE OF IDENTITY AND LEGITIMACY**. Living in HIDING in a slum in the region of Samaria.

FRUITLESS - The name means “**Pastureless**” - fruitless existence; no prospects; no hope of change; Lack of enlightenment carries an implication of a **hopeless MINDSET** that will never change!

II. COMING OUT OF LODEBAR:

- **HEARING THE CALL OF THE KING**
 - A call to ANYONE of the ROYAL LINE to whom He can show KINDNESS?
 - We see the INTERACTION of A VICTIMIZED MINDSET encountering an OPPORTUNITY never thought of or imagined!
- v6 “ I AM YOUR SERVANT”:
 - A victimized mindset in fear sees himself as UNWORTHY (shame operating here)
 - This may appear like humility, but it’s far from true humility
- v8 “...A DEAD DOG LIKE ME.”
 - Useless, unproductive, no potential, just to be discarded

NOTE:

THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE STILL LIVING IN LODEBAR! THEY ARE LIVING IN A PLACE OF FEAR, HOPELESSNESS, FRUITLESSNESS AND SHAME; VICTIMS OF, NOT THEIR OWN FAILURES, BUT THAT OF OTHERS WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO BE THEIR CAREGIVERS AND BENEFACTORS!

TO ALL THOSE LIVING IN LODEBAR:

THERE IS A KING SEEKING YOU OUT THAT HE MIGHT RESTORE YOU TO AN INHERITANCE, A DESTINY AND AN IDENTITY AS AN HEIR THAT YOU THOUGHT WAS LOST FOREVER!

THE SON OF DAVID, KING JESUS IS CALLING TODAY TO ALL THOSE LIVING IN LODEBAR!

THE CALL OF THE KING:

1. FEARFUL NO MORE:

- Your PAST FAILURES don’t define you anymore
- Your GENERATIONAL HERITAGE doesn’t define you anymore
- Your VICTIMIZATION doesn’t determine your purpose or destiny anymore

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become *a new person*. The old life is gone; *a new life has begun!*

- When Jesus calls you to HIMSELF out of LODEBAR, He doesn't promise to PATCH UP YOUR OLD LIFE, **HE GIVES YOU A BRAND NEW ONE!**
- **YOU ARE NOT CALLED TO LIVE IN FEAR OF THE PAST!**
- **YOU ARE NOT CALLED TO LIVE IN THE SHADOW OF THE FAILURES OF OTHERS THAT TAINTED YOUR LIFE AND CRIPPLED YOU IN YOUR ABILITY TO FUNCTION AND WALK OUT A PRODUCTIVE LIFE**
- **YOU ARE CALLED TO LIVE OUT A NEW LIFE WITH A NEW HOPE AND A NEW DESTINY AND FUTURE - AND THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING!**

2. FATHERLESS NO MORE:

STATISTICS:

- **70% of Juvenile delinquents from fatherless homes**
- **71% of High School dropouts from fatherless homes**
- **85% of behavioral disorders from fatherless homes**
- **63% of youth suicides from fatherless homes**

NOTE:

1 IN 3 PEOPLE COME FROM FATHERLESS HOMES AND EXPERIENCE PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, INTELLECTUAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS LOST AS A RESULT!

Mark 1:11 (NLT)

11 And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy."

- GOD spoke this about Jesus BEFORE he did any miracle, work, teaching, etc.
- All those who live by faith in Christ are the CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM by faith
- God saw all of us in Abraham as part of the ONE COMPLETE MAN/NATION that was to come from him as the FATHER OF MANY NATIONS!
- God the Father saw ALL those whom He has drawn to Christ IN HIM FROM BEFORE THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH

NOTE:

WHEN THE FATHER DECLARED THIS, HE DECLARED IT TO ALL THOSE WHOM HE SEES IN CHRIST. THEREFORE WE ARE ALL THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GOD - BY VIRTUE OF THE FACT OF HIS CALLING US, NOT BY OUR PERFORMANCE!

JOHN 1:12 COMES BEFORE EPHESIANS 4:11

John 1:12 (NLT)

12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

Ephesians 4:11 (NLT)

11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.

NOTE:

YOUR SONSHIP, LEGITIMACY COMES FROM THE FATHER THROUGH CHRIST, WITH OUT ANY BASIS UPON YOUR PERFORMANCE! JESUS DECLARED IN JOHN 17, "...I HAVE KEPT THEM ALL IN YOUR NAME." = FATHER!

NOTE:

**MEPHIBOSHETH HAD AN EXPERIENCE AS IF HE HAD A FATHER! IT WAS AS IF DAVID BECAME HIS FATHER AND HIS STATUS AS ROYAL SEED WAS RESTORED TO HIM, AS IF HIS FATER HAD NOT DIED!
HE FOUND HIMSELF BACK IN THE PALACE!
YOUR IDENTITY AND LEGITIMACY COMES FROM WHO YOU ARE NOT WHAT YOU DO!**

3. FRUITLESS NO MORE: RESTORATION!

- All the possessions of Jonathan and Saul were restored to Mephibosheth!
- Ziba and his 15 sons then became his STAFF who worked the fields and business for him. **HE WENT FROM ZERO TO ZIBA IN 60 SECONDS!**

John 15:16 (NLT)

16 You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.

Joel 2:25 (NKJV)

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**"So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten,
The crawling locust,
The consuming locust,
And the chewing locust,[a]**

NOTE:

Only GOD CAN RESTORE TIME AND THE PRODUCTIVITY THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN; THE FRUITFULNESS THAT COULD HAVE BEEN!

III. TAKING YOUR SEAT AT THE KING'S TABLE:

- It's ONE THING to come out of Lodebar, IT'S ANOTHER THING TO TAKE YOUR SEAT!
- **YOU MAY STILL HAVE DIFFICULTY FUNCTIONING, BUT YOU CAN STILL OCCUPY YOUR SEAT OF PROMISE, STATUS, DESTINY, PURPOSE**
- **IT TAKES FAITH TO LEAVE LODEBAR**
- **IT TAKES FAITH TO OCCUPY YOUR DIVINELY ORDAINED POSITION!**
- **KEY: IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, GOD IS NEVER ASHAMED OF YOU; YOU NEED NEVER BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF!**

EPILOGUE:

ALL THE WHILE MEPHIBOSHETH WAS LIVING IN LODEBAR, A KING WAS SEEKING HIM OUT! HE HAD PLANS TO BLESS HIM; TO RESTORE HIS INHERITANCE; TO GRANT HIM LEGITIMACY AS A SON; TO RESTORE ALL THAT WAS LOST TO HIM; TO GIVE HIM A FUTURE AND A HOPE!

Jeremiah 29:11 New Living Translation (NLT)

11 For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE YOUR SEAT?

**PRAYER CALL TO COME OUT OF LIVING IN A DESOLATE PLACE
COME OUT OF THE PLACE OF FEARFULNESS, FATHERLESSNESS, AND
FRUITLESSNESS**