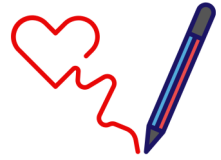


FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



No One Left Behind

There are some people who leave marks on our hearts forever. For me, it was my sister, a beautiful soul with special needs. Growing up, the world labelled her as “retarded,” but to me, she was simply my sister, someone who needed more love, more patience, and more understanding. She taught me what unconditional love looks like. She taught me that every person carries the image of God, not because of ability or achievement, but because God Himself crafted them. Her passing reminded me of a powerful truth – that in God’s family, no one is forgotten. No one is left out. No one is left behind.

That truth shines brightly in the story of Mephibosheth in **2 Samuel 9** when David had just become the king. History tells us what new kings would usually do – they would wipe out the previous king’s entire family line to secure their own rule. But David began his reign with a radical question: ***“Is there anyone still left... to whom I can show kindness?”*** The Hebrews word he used, ‘chesed’, means covenant love, mercy, loyal kindness. David wasn’t hunting an enemy; he was searching for someone to bless.

This is like the heart of God. He seeks out those the world overlooks. He remembers what others forget. He extends love where others draw boundaries. Many families with special needs children know what it feels like to be overlooked or exhausted. But the heart of God, and the call of His people, is to seek them with compassion, not avoidance.

Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, was crippled in both feet. He lived in Lo-debar, a place whose name means “no pasture”, a

barren and forgotten land, a place of no hope. Mephibosheth carried shame, fear, and a deep sense of unworthiness. In many ways, he is a picture of people who feel hidden, misunderstood, or left behind. People with visible disabilities and those with invisible wounds. People who quietly endure shame, fear, or isolation. And yet, God sees every “Mephibosheth”. He sees those whom society labels or overlooks. He sees those the world forgets. And He moves toward them.

When David looked at Mephibosheth, he spoke three life-changing words: **“Do not fear”**. Fear is always the first thing God addresses. Then, **“I will surely show you kindness.”** Not because Mephibosheth earned it, but because of a covenant. God’s grace toward us works the same way: it is not based on our performance, but on His promise. Finally, David said, **“You shall eat at my table always.”** This phrase is a deliberate reminder that Mephibosheth was not merely rescued; he was adopted. Not tolerated, but honoured. Not placed in the servants’ quarters, but seated with the king. We expect rejection, but God gives acceptance. We expect scraps, but He gives a seat at the table. This is the heart that the church is called to reflect, especially to those with special needs: not pity, but honour; not distance, but inclusion; not tolerance, but acceptance.

The story ends like this: **“...he ate always at the king’s table. Now he was lame in both his feet.”** While Mephibosheth’s disability remained, his identity radically changed. In the same way, God’s grace does not always remove our weaknesses, but it redefines our worth. A child with special needs or a developmental delay may experience the world differently, yet in Christ they are fully loved, fully valued, fully included. Not because they fit into society’s mould, but because they have a place at the King’s table.

This story points us to Jesus. We are all *Mephibosheths* who are broken, fearful, unworthy, hiding in our own Lo-debar, but Christ our King seeks us out. He carries us from shame to honour. He lifts us from the ground to His table. He adopts us, not because we are good, but because He is gracious. ***“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”*** (Romans 5:8). At His table, no one sits higher. No one sits lower. We are all there because of His grace.

What does this mean for us today? Simply put: every person, regardless of ability, carries the image of God. Every family with special needs should feel seen and supported. The church must learn from David, who reflected the heart of God. We are called to seek out, welcome, and honour those the world often ignores. Because in God’s house, there is room for everyone. There is a seat for everyone. There is grace for everyone. No exceptions. No exclusions. **No one left behind.**

Ps Kelvin

