

# King David and Mephibosheth

David, King of Israel was bored, so very bored. He tossed his heavy gold crown from hand to hand as he sat on his throne surrounded by every comfort and servants to do his every wish. Life was just too quiet. He sighed as he remembered how as a young man, first as a shepherd boy and later a brave warrior, he had fought fierce battles alongside his best friend, Jonathan.

Jonathan who had been as a brother to him.

That was it! David leapt to his feet.

“Is there anyone left of Jonathan’s family?” He demanded of his servants.

A servant called Ziba said, “Yes. A young man called Mephibosheth. He’s Jonathan’s grandson.”

David was delighted. “Bring him to me!” he commanded.

Now Mephibosheth had become crippled as a baby when his nurse had dropped him while running away to keep him hidden and safe from soldiers who were chasing them. Kings were always arguing in those days, and one ruler would follow on from another. Friends suddenly became enemies, and enemies became friends. It was very confusing. Now the young man, Mephibosheth was still unable to walk properly. The people who cared for him did their best but his food was unexciting, he never had new clothes, and there was no pocket money.

The servants brought a reluctant Mephibosheth to David’s throne room. He was scared because he thought that David still meant him harm. He bowed before David hoping that David would not be angry and kill him or throw him in prison. David, however, was a good king who loved God and always tried to do what was right. To Mephibosheth’s surprise King David rose from the throne, ran to welcome him, and hugged him.

“Mephibosheth,” he said. “I am so happy to meet you. I loved your grandfather and I want to honour him by helping you. Firstly, I am restoring all your fortune to you. Then I want you to make my palace your home.”

WOW! Mephibosheth could hardly believe it! A huge feast followed. He would sit at the king’s table every day as a member of the royal family, dressed in fine clothes and have gold and silver chinking in his pockets. There were servants to meet his every wish and best of all – lots and lots of yummy food.