

So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate at the king's table regularly. Now he was lame in both feet. (2 Samuel 9:13)

King David's favour for lame Mephibosheth reminds us of God's favour for us! Read all 13 verses of 2 Samuel 9 for some background. Quite possibly Mephibosheth suffered from bilateral talipes equinovarus, also known as clubfoot. This condition occurs in about 1 of every 1000 births. In Old Testament times any such disability disqualified someone from serving as a priest and also gave rise to negative suppositions about the quality of a person's walk with God—and his parents' walk with God. Therefore, David offered an amazing gift of hospitality by inviting Mephibosheth to dine at the king's table as one of the his sons. Verse 8 of 2 Samuel shows just how unworthy Mephibosheth felt he was: "What is your servant, that you should regard a dead dog like me?"

David again sought to honour Saul—even after Saul's death—by not just inviting Mephibosheth over for dinner one evening, but by inviting him into his household. This was a particularly splendid effort because the object of David's kindness was the son of his late friend Jonathan.

Now consider God's favour on you. You suffered *spiritual* talipes equinovarus at one time, didn't you? Although you were spiritually lame the King said, "Come...I am giving you everything you need. Eat at my table as one of my children." Once you and I are in His household He gives us the promise of dining with Him every day. So, let's eat!

—Jeff Russell

Orthopaedics