

TUESDAY NIGHT

at the
Crescent

"MEPHIBOSHETH"

A study of the fact that things aren't always what they seem.

(2 Samuel 4: 4; 9: 6-13; 16: 1-4; 19: 24-30; 21: 7)

TUESDAY 23rd MAY, 1989

1. An outstanding example of grace:
 - a) Promises made (1 Samuel 20: 13-16; 24: 21-22)
 - b) Promises kept (2 Samuel 9: 1-13)
2. Application by analogy:
 - (a) Mephibosheth once enjoyed fellowship with his father, and so did man with his creator in the Garden of Eden. (b) When disaster and fear came, the nurse fled and Mephibosheth suffered a fall that left him crippled. So have we been crippled by sin. (c) Out of love for Jonathan, David demonstrated grace to his crippled son. So God, out of love for His Son shows His love to us. (d) Mephibosheth had nothing, deserved nothing and didn't even try to win the King's favour. Neither can we win God's grace by any merit of our own. (e) David took Mephibosheth from a barren place and restored him to a place of honour. (f) David adopted Mephibosheth into his family and he became the King's son. God has also done the same for us. (Ephesians 1:5; 1 John 3: 1) (g) Mephibosheth's crippled limp was a constant reminder of grace. So we, with a limp of sin are constantly reminded of God's mercy. (Psalm 103: 10-14). (h) When Mephibosheth sat down at the royal table he was treated just like one of the King's sons. So when we enter God's presence we are equal recipients of His love.
3. Things aren't always what they seem:
 - a) A present is not always meant for your pleasure (2 Samuel 16: 1-2)
 - b) An accusation is not necessarily true (2 Samuel 16: 3-4)
 - c) Affected priority does not necessarily mean affinity (2 Samuel 19: 16-18)
 - d) Appearance does not tell all (2 Samuel 19: 24-29)
4. Faithfulness awarded:

David recalls the sequestration of Mephibosheth's estate saying that it now must be as he first ordered. Ziba has the occupancy, tilling the land, Mephibosheth has the rent. Mephibosheth cares more for the King's return than he does for his estate. Do you. (2 Samuel 19: 29-30)

"There are few things wholly evil or wholly good. Almost everything, especially of government policy, is an inseparable compound of the two, so that our best judgement of the preponderance between them is continually demanded".

(Abraham Lincoln)

