

# El Perezoso

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Then David said, "Is there yet anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" Now there was a servant of Ziba and they called him to David; and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "I am your servant." And the king said, "Is not there yet anyone of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan who is crippled in both feet." So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodabar." Then king David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo-Debar. And Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and prostrated himself.

And David said

kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul; and you shall eat at my table regularly." Again he prostrated himself and said, "What is your servant, that you should regard a dead dog like me?" Then the king called Saul's servant Ziba, and said to him, "All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson. And you and your sons and your servants shall cultivate the land for him, and you shall bring in the produce so that your master's grandson may have food; nevertheless Mephibosheth your master's grandson shall eat at my table regularly." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king commands his servant so your servant will do." So

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lived in the house of Ziba were servants to Mephibosheth. So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate at the king's table regularly. Now he was lame in both feet. (11 Samuel 9)

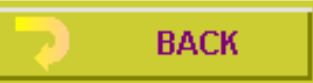
Mephibosheth was a forgotten man. In his own eyes nobody had any reason to pay attention to him. However, he managed to get the attention of one, the King. He was brought to a place of prestige just because the king wanted him to be at his table. After that he was considered part of the family. This old testament story beautifully illustrates the new testament picture.

For example, Mephibosheth was living in the house of Machir in Lo Debar. Lo Debar means "pastureless". The word Machir means "merchandise", which is taken from the root word to sell as in merchandise or slaves. So here we have Mephibosheth in slavery's house in pastureless Lo Debar where no one was caring for

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And David said,  
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According to all that my lord the king commands his servant so your servant will do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table as one of the king's sons. And Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Mica. And all who lived in the house of Ziba were servants to Mephibosheth. So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate at the king's table regularly. Now he was lame in both feet. (II Samuel 9)

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this he was unable to walk correctly, for he was lame. Not what we'd consider a good candidate for eating at the king's table, especially when his grandfather (Saul) was the King's number one enemy when he was alive. However, Mephibosheth didn't know about the promise made long ago. David made a promise to Mephibosheth's father, Jonathan (I Samuel 20:14) to show kindness to his family even after he had died. David also made a similar promise to Saul (I Samuel 24:21 & 22) not to wipe out Saul's family when David should become king. The idea of eating at King David's table was initiated by the King himself. For he wanted to show kindness to the son of the one he had made a covenant with; Jonathan. David brought Mephibosheth (a dead dog in his own words) to sit and eat at the table of the King. We can see that this is exactly what the Lord has done for us. He took us from pastureless Lo Debar of slavery's house, and placed us next to him in the Heavens. He's trans-

more than Mephibosheth did. He was made to eat at the King's table and to eat the bread that the King supplied daily. He truly was raised to a position of honor as are we. Verse 13 says he ate as one of King David's own sons. Can you imagine how he must have felt? One day in pastureless slavery, the next at the table of the King. The Lord today invites us to sit at His table. In fact, He has sent out the decree that we will eat the bread from His table which He provides. The Lord says that all we want, we can have. The sad part is His children many times don't like to come in and eat. Instead of sitting down and eating the richest of foods from the King's table, we grab a quick bite on the way. The Lord's invitation stands open to us even three times a day. Actually, David put no other demand on Mephibosheth except that he eat at his table.

from the root word to sell as in merchandise or slaves. So here we have Mephibosheth in slavery's house in pastureless Lo Debar where no one was caring for him. On top of all

the Heavens. He's transferred us from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of His beloved Son, just because He wanted to show us kindness. We don't deserve it any

that he eat at his table. He even sent workers to his field for him so that above all, he would not miss eating at his table. Are you missing the King's table? David as

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well ate at the King's table. However, it wasn't as pleasant of an experience for him. However, for the sake of example, one time David asked permission to not eat at the table of the King (have you ever asked the Lord if it's alright to miss your devotions or your quiet time?) because Saul had evil in his mind against him. Saul immediately noticed that David was missing from his table. On the second day when David was missing, the King's anger burned against David. I know that Saul is not a type of God the Father, however the illustration serves that if King Saul noticed who was missing from his table because he had plans for evil; how much more will our Heavenly Father notice if we are missing from His table when His plans for us are for the good? God immediately notices when we miss a day, let alone when days pass, or weeks, or even months. We've been given a great privilege to be able to sit at the table of the King of Kings. Can you imagine if an earthly King invited us to sit at just one meal with him? We would consider it such an honor. Yet the King

missing some of my devotional times. I had a dream that a very close friend of mine and I were going out to eat. We got our food (it was like a fast food restaurant) and decided to sit down at a table. At the table where we sat were two men sitting side by side. So I sat opposite them, expecting my friend to do the same, and sit next to me. But instead, he sat next to the other two and began to focus all of his attention on them. Feeling totally left out, I began to ask myself why we had even bothered to come and sit together, only to ignore each other. So I got up from the table (unnoticed by my friend) and went for a walk. Some time later, I found

him again. He said to me that he wanted to stay in town a little longer to go to a movie, so I should just go ahead and take a taxi. I thought "why doesn't he ask me along?" I remember the feeling I had: that although this person was one of my best friends, he wasn't treating me like one at all. When I awoke from the dream, I felt that God was using the dream to show me how He feels when we ignore Him. God feels the same way I did in the dream, when we neglect our devotional time or times of intimacy with Him. Are we saying we're best friends with God and thinking everything's fine, when we've really allowed time spent with Him to slip away? Worse than that, we're totally clueless as to how He feels.

Samson was a man prone to play along the fence, never coming into his full calling. One of the saddest verses in the Bible is in regard to him; where it says that the Holy Spirit left him and he wasn't even aware of it. He had so accustomed his spirit to being quenched that he never even noticed when the fire went out. (Judges 16:20) May this



it such an honor. Yet the King of Kings has given us a seat at His table every day. It's not a light thing.

I recall a dream I had during a time when I had been



out. (Judges 16:20) May this not be our case.

When I was in Bolivia, we had a chance to visit a zoo. Seeing how we were near the Amazon, many of the ani-



mals were native of that area. There was one particular animal that caught all of our attention, because he wasn't in a cage. He was a little thing, like a teddy bear. He had a cute face, but an ugly body, and he moved about as slow as molasses. He was climbing a fence as slow as anything, so I went to take a picture of him. I put my camera right up to his face and took a shot. My flash went off, but he didn't even blink. The others on the team also took flash photos and he didn't even flinch. He also had very long claws on his small hands and I noticed that he did try to come near us. When we asked the missionary what this was, she said "Don't touch him, if he sinks his claws in you, it's very difficult to get them out. If someone was to hold him, it would have to be at a distance, for his grip is very tight." Later, I asked the name of the animal. She said that it was called a Perezozo, which translated

in English means "Sloth".

I began to see that this animal is a good representation of the sin of slothfulness. For, it might be cute to look at, yet it's long claws can penetrate in you and hold on very tight. It's not fazed by things that go on around it, and it's very slow in it's endeavor to do anything, but it does desire to get near to people and be held by them. This is many times the reason so many have a hard time having consistant devotions. They picked up the sloth, thinking he was cute, and he sunk his claws into them, and now they can't get him off. They thought it was cute to hold, and now the animal has a hold on them and he won't let go.

In Luke chapter 6; Jesus heals a man with a withered right hand in the temple on the Sabbath day. The right hand, symbolic of our good works and of our strength; for this man had withered and dried up. It had no life in it, even though he was inside the temple. His works were dead, and he was in-

active to the point where he had no strength left. He was hindered from doing anything. However, Jesus touched him, and his hand was restored. Jesus has called us to abide, and if we are not, our works are drying up and no life remains in us. Has your prayer life withered? Jesus wants to restore it to a new and vibrant life again. The cute little sloth wants you to pick him up, but only to sink his claws into you. Once his claws are in you, your life and your strength begins to wither.

May we understand the privilege of the King's table, and may it cause us to draw near to Him with our hearts full of praise. The table is set and God is waiting for the one he took from Lo Debar, the one who was lame in both feet; the one He has set as a King's son, to come and eat what He has set before him. God will restore what was once withered.

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