

“Reaching Everyone”

Adventist Possibility Ministries Sabbath Sermon 2025

By Pastor Ronilsom Alves Pinto¹



Text: 2 Samuel 9:7 NKJV So David said to him, “Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father’s sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually.”

The Church must be a community with equity that does not discriminate and overcomes social, political, and historical barriers.

In Leviticus 21:16-26, no person with a "defect" in Aaron’s family could become a priest. In this case, the Levitical priesthood pointed to Christ, the perfect priest. It had nothing to do with favoritism. Some Christians use this text to justify the exclusion of people with disabilities.

Jesus welcomed everyone. In John 9:1-3, the disciples saw a man who was blind from birth and asked Christ: "Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Many believed that a person with a disability was under a divine curse. This way of thinking was common among the people in both the Old and New Testaments.

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Even today, there is much prejudice and exclusion against people with disabilities, both among those who call themselves God's people and in secular society. However, God wants to welcome and save everyone.

1. Kindness - 2 Samuel 9:1-3

When David took the throne of Israel, he sought to do good to those who hated him. He looked for someone from the family of his greatest enemy. He could have ordered them all to be destroyed, but instead, he treated one as his son.

Mephibosheth was in the line of succession after Saul. His father, Jonathan, would have become king if Saul had died. But sadly, Jonathan also died, leaving only Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:1).

David asked: “Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, to whom I may show kindness?” Here, David represents the kindness of God, who wants to save all and bring them into the Kingdom of Heaven. David chose to do good to those who wished him harm.

David had made a covenant with Jonathan. They promised to care for each other and their descendants. David called Ziba and, in a conversation, asked if there was still anyone alive from the house of Saul. Ziba answered with sorrow in his heart about the existence of Mephibosheth, who was "crippled in both feet" (2 Samuel 9:2-3).

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Mephibosheth was condemned to death for two reasons: first, because he was the grandson of King Saul; second, because he had a disability. In the culture of that time, he was rejected by his family, friends, and society. Imagine when Ziba knocked on Mephibosheth's door and said, "My friend, you have been found. The king has sent for you and said he will act kindly toward you." Did he believe it? Mephibosheth deserved death for two reasons! Imagine, dear church, him saying goodbye to his wife, his son, and his friends. What a painful journey to the palace in Jerusalem. In his mind, it was his last day alive.

Story from the Author

My name is Ronilsom, and I am a pastor in the Pará Amapá Mission in northern Brazil. I was born with cerebral palsy, which affected my motor coordination and speech. One day, in my third year of theology school, the professor assigned a project to the class, and I received the highest score in the class. She congratulated me but used a childish tone and language as if I were a little child.

At the end of the class, a friend came to me and said that he had noticed what had happened and recommended that we should talk to the teacher. So we did. I told her, "I do not understand the reason for the celebration. I am just like anyone else in this classroom. I want to be respected like everyone else. Please do not do that again because it hurt me a lot."

She looked at me and said, "Ronilsom, I did not mean any harm. I was happy you could complete the assignment, and I got excited. Please forgive me. I had no idea that I was hurting you."

In the end, I forgave her and prayed with her. We must be careful to see people through Christ's eyes.

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2. God loves everyone, including you - 2 Samuel 9: 5-7

David sent for Mephibosheth, who was living in Lo-Debar, in the house of Machir, a wealthy man who lived east of Jordan and was a friend of the kings of Israel. Mephibosheth means "from the mouth of shame."

In 2 Samuel 4:4, it says that Mephibosheth had a disability in both feet due to an accident when he was 5 years old. This happened after King Saul's death and the Israelite army's defeat before the Philistines. During the escape, he fell and broke his legs.

3. How the Church should care for people with disabilities

The Church should be open with open arms and doors to receive everyone. Just as David showed kindness to Mephibosheth and gave him all the lands that belonged to Saul, his grandfather (2 Samuel 9:7).

Mephibosheth was integrated into society. He would now work, be helpful, and be accepted by all. As a Church, we should strive to make people feel useful for God's work, regardless of their physical or intellectual condition. God desires to save us and make us useful in these last days. He wants to awaken His people to this reality that we are all needed to advance God's Kingdom.

Mephibosheth had low self-esteem. He considered himself a dead dog, unworthy, and a servant (2 Samuel 9:8), but now, he would always eat at the king's table and be treated as a prince. Mephibosheth became a citizen of Jerusalem. A man despised by all and whom God's grace reached

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through David, he was now respected and seen as a prince with many servants at his disposal. The most interesting part is that he eats bread daily at the king's table (2 Samuel 9:10).

God wants to use us to reach people who are invisible to the eyes of the world. People are suffering and distressed because they desire a life worthy of respect and recognition. These people are capable of doing many things in ways different from yours. No one should be discarded by society or the Church.

Appeal

The phrase "at the king's table" is repeated four times. This table is a symbol of the table of the great feast. We are unworthy, and we all share in the disability of sin. Just like Mephibosheth, we deserve to die. But we will be like princes in the Kingdom of Heaven, sitting around the table of the Lamb's Supper.

There will be no more physical, intellectual, or sensory disabilities. There will be no more the disability of sin, and all of us will be restored forever. God desires that people with disabilities be treated with respect and integrated into society and the Church as deserving of receiving the care of all.

Today, the Lord is seeking you. He desires to bring you into His family, sustain you, and care for you because He loves you unconditionally and will never abandon you. Jesus loves you. Come to the arms of the Lord. He will take you to His Kingdom of glory, and you will be a prince or princess in His Kingdom. He will grant you all the riches.

God accepts you just the way you are. So, let Him take care of you.