



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Welcome to the Family

Focus Verse: Romans 8:15 -For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Lesson Text: 2 Samuel 9:1-13; Romans 8:12-15

Truth About God: God gives each person the opportunity to live a new and better life.

Truth For My Life: I will not live my life below my standing as God's child.

Within every human being is the basic need of belonging. We desire family and community. The bond from one person to another is essential to our physical, mental, and emotional health. Even more important, it is critical to our spiritual health.

Just like physical orphans, we were all spiritual orphans. We needed a spirit family to take us in and nurture us. We needed a Father to love us, protect us, and provide for us. The Bible lets us know that God has adopted us into His family. When we are born again, we are part of the largest adopted family on the face of the earth.

Mephibosheth was just a child when we first see him in Scripture. He had quite the lineage. His father was Jonathan and his grandfather was Saul, the first king of Israel. Mephibosheth grew up as royalty with all the attendant privileges that go being in the lineage of the king. However, after he lost his father and his grandfather in one battle, he was left with no immediate family to take care of him. He became an orphan in a short span of time and no longer enjoyed any of the luxuries of his previous life. When he was five-year-old his nurse scooped him up and she fell to the ground and watched in horror as he fell out of her arms. The fall had paralyzed him.

King David sought out Mephibosheth and adopted him. David's words overwhelmed him, *"And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually"* (2 Samuel 9:7). His royalty restored; he would now live with the attendant privileges of being a king's son.

We never really know people's stories just by looking at them. However, we know many people we encounter are hurting and several are suffering as spiritual orphans. We need a compassionate heart like David that causes us to seek out those who have been injured by life. Each of us needs a desire to give people a seat at our table.

All human beings were born spiritually lame, regardless of how healthy they were physically. According to Psalm 51:5, David understood this when he said, *"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."* Paul explained this principle in Romans 5:12, *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."* We were all born with this crippling sin nature in our lives. If it were left to work its debilitating work, we would hide away and live our lives in obscurity.

Through the gospel—the good news of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ—we too can be adopted into the family of God. As we identify with each part of the gospel by repenting of our sins, being immersed in baptism in the name of Jesus Christ, and receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the initial sign of speaking with other tongues, we become sealed in adoption to Him.

When no one else saw any value at all, God said He would take us just as we were. **Were we unlovable?** Absolutely. **Did we need cleaned up?** Certainly. **Did we have issues?** Without a doubt? Were those reasons for Him to reject us and move on to someone else who had it more together? Not on your life. **Jesus loved us too much to leave us where He found us.** Instead, He did for us what David did for Mephibosheth. **Jesus adopted us and made us His own.**