

Lesson III. DAVID'S KINDNESS TO JONATHAN'S SON October 18, 1908

2 Samuel, ch. 9—Memory Verse, 7.

Golden Text—And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another.—Ephesians 4 : 32.

away at my table. Now Zi'ba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

11 Then said Zi'ba unto the king, According to all that my lord the king hath commanded his servant, so shall thy servant do. As for Mephib'osheth, said the king, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons.

12 And Mephib'osheth had a young son, whose name was Mi'cha. And all that dwelt in the house of Zi'ba were servants unto Mephib'osheth.

13 So Mephib'osheth dwelt in Jerusalem : for he did eat continually at the king's table ; and was lame on both his feet.

THE LESSON RETOLD

David had become great and powerful ; but he still remembered his old friend Jonathan, and the agreement they had made together to be kind to each other's children. Jonathan was dead now ; and so David wished to know if there were not some of his children still living to whom he might show kindness for their father's sake.

So David sent for a man named Ziba, who had once been a servant of Saul's, and Ziba told the king that one of Jonathan's sons named Mephibosheth was still living, who was lame on both his feet.

When Ziba told the king where Mephibosheth was living, David sent his men to bring him to his palace. And when Mephibosheth came in before King David, he bowed down to the ground, for he was afraid lest David should do him some harm because he belonged to the family of Saul ; and he said, " Behold, I am thy servant ". But David said, " Do not be afraid because I

1 And Da'vid said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jon'athan's sake ?

2 And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Zi'ba. And when they had called him unto Da'vid, the king said unto him, Art thou Zi'ba ? And he said, Thy servant is he.

3 And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him ? And Zi'ba said unto the king, Jon'athan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.

4 And the king said unto him, Where is he ? And Zi'ba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Ma'chir, the son of Am'miel, in Lo'-debar.

5 Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Ma'chir, the son of Am'miel, from Lo'-debar.

6 Now when Mephib'osheth, the son of Jon'athan, the son of Saul, was come unto Da'vid, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And Da'vid said, Mephib'osheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant !

7 And Da'vid said unto him, Fear not : for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jon'athan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father : and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.

8 And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldst look upon such a dead dog as I am ?

9 Then the king called to Zi'ba, Saul's servant, and said unto him, I have given unto thy master's son all that pertained to Saul and to all his house.

10 Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in the fruits, that thy master's son may have food to eat : but Mephib'osheth thy master's son shall eat bread

have sent for thee, for I will surely be kind to thee for thy father's sake, and I will give back to thee all the lands which belonged to thy grandfather Saul and to thy father, and thou shalt come and live with me".

Mephibosheth was very grateful, and he bowed down before the king, saying, " What am I that thou shouldst take any notice of me ? " Then David called Ziba, Saul's old servant, and said to him, " I have given back to Mephibosheth all the land and possessions that belonged to Saul and to his father. Do thou, therefore, and thy sons and thy servants take care of the land for him (now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants), " till it and tend it and bring all the fruits that shall grow on it to him, that thy master's son may have plenty for his family to live on. But as for Mephibosheth himself, he shall live with me, and always eat at my table, and be as one of my own sons." So Mephibosheth, still lame on