



THE LIVING SENT PODCAST: SHOW NOTES

EPISODE: O38

TITLE: **Eating Good Food with Bad People (Jesus Brings Hope Around the Table)**

Episode Summary:

What if the most Christlike thing you did this week was share a meal with someone others overlook? In this episode, we explore the story of Mephibosheth in 2 Samuel 9 and how it beautifully foreshadows the radical hospitality and grace of Jesus. You'll hear a powerful reminder that grace isn't earned—it's offered—and you'll be challenged to live SENT by opening up your own table to others.

Key Takeaways:

- You don't earn your seat at the table—Jesus offers it.
- Mephibosheth's story is our story: broken, forgotten, and yet invited.
- The King's kindness is relentless, undeserved, and transformational.
- Living SENT means inviting people to eat with us—just like Jesus did.
- Your table can become holy ground.

Scripture References:

- 2 Samuel 9
- Luke 19:10
- Matthew 9:10–13
- John 6:35
- Psalm 23:6
- John 3:16

7 Discussion Questions for Groups or Teams:

1. When have you felt like you were “sitting at the wrong table” in life? What emotions did that stir up in you?



2. Mephibosheth was hiding in Lo Debar—a place of nothing. Where do people around us today tend to hide their shame or brokenness? Where do you hide yours?
3. David kept a decades-old promise to show kindness. What's a promise you've made—or should make—that could change someone else's life if you kept it?
4. What's the difference between guilt and shame? How does the Gospel of Jesus deal with both?
5. Have you ever hesitated to come to God's table because you felt unworthy? What lies were you believing in that moment?
6. Who do you know right now that might be living in a spiritual Lo Debar—feeling isolated, unwanted, or unseen? How could you reach out to them this week?
7. If your dinner table reflected the heart of Jesus, who would be sitting at it? And what needs to change to make that happen?

5 Table Questions to Help You Eat Like Jesus

1. **What's been the best and hardest part of your week so far?**
Jesus asked real questions. This one opens the door for honesty and deeper connection.
2. **What's something you're grateful for today?**
Gratitude softens hearts and prepares space for joy and spiritual openness.
3. **Is there anything you're carrying right now that feels heavy?**
Jesus created space for the burdened. This question invites vulnerability without pressure.
4. **How do you feel about where you are spiritually right now?**
A gentle prompt that allows people to reflect without fear of judgment.
5. **If you could ask God one question and get a direct answer, what would it be?**
A curious, non-threatening question that sparks meaningful spiritual conversations.

Full Episode Transcript

Have you ever found yourself sitting at the wrong table? A few years back, I was still in seminary at the time, and I had a paper for class that I was working on. And so I went to a local coffee shop here in town.



And as I went through the front door, as I always do, I'm looking for a seat. I'm surveying the coffee shop. And if you work with a computer, you know that seats that have an outlet below them or beside them come at a premium. And so, like, I'm coming in the coffee shop, I'm scanning around, and I see one bullseye. It's jackpot.

I'm going right for it. It was at the High Top bar. And so I placed my drink order, got my drink set up shop there, plugged in earbuds, the whole shebang. And I was in work mode. I was in the zone.

I was typing away, getting after it. And after a few minutes of working on this paper, I started to notice that the whole atmosphere in the coffee shop started to shift a little bit. See, this man walked in, and the baristas, they just lit up. They started smiling, they said his name. They started kind of joking with this guy, and they started making his drink order before he even got to the counter.

I mean, if anybody was a regular at this coffee shop, it was this guy. I mean, this guy must have been the legend, you know? And he gets his coffee, and lo and behold, where do you think he sits out of all the available seats in the coffee shop? He sits right next to me. And I'm talking, like, right next to me.

No buffer chair. This is like American Airlines close with, like, you know, coach, where you're fighting over the armrest. Close. He is right there. And I'm like, man, this is a little weird.

And so I just kind of keep my sights straightforward. I'm still working on the paper, and I can feel him turn towards me, and he goes, what you working on? And I pulled out the earbud, and I said, excuse me. And he says, what you working on? And I was like, well, I'm working on a paper for school.

And I explained that I was in seminary and what class I was in and the topic for the paper, the whole thing. And so he asked a couple more questions about it. And looking back, like, the conversation itself wasn't necessarily noteworthy or significant except for the last thing he said to me. He said, oh, that's great. He said, but by the way, he said, you're sitting in my seat.

And I kind of laughed for a second and I looked back at him and he was like, no, really, he said, you're sitting in my seat. And he pointed like this. And so I kind of followed his finger to the edge of the high top counter. And no joke, there was a little gold plaque on the counter and it said, this seat belongs to Don. This seat belongs to Don.



The dude had literally made his own sign, put it in this coffee shop. I had unmistakably claimed the throne of the local legend. I was in the wrong seat and I was at the wrong table. And we kind of laughed about it for a second. He let me stay at the bar there with him and finish my paper and head on home.

But I have thought about that moment so often. Not necessarily because I was embarrassed by it, because I had the thought, man, how often do we find ourselves sitting at places we were never meant to sit? Like trying to belong, trying to fit in, trying to earn a seat at the table. And I'm not talking about at coffee shops, I'm talking about in all of life. And we try to, we hustle for approval, we try to perform for other people's acceptance, we try to earn a seat at the table, whether that's at work, whether that's within a relationship that we have.

Sometimes it's even in our own family, sometimes it's even in our own church. And oftentimes we actually settle for sitting at tables that don't actually provide the fulfillment and the hope that we're looking for. But the good news of the gospel is this, that there actually is a table. There is a table that you are called to. But this table is not reserved for the worthy, but for the willing.

It's a table where you don't actually have to bring anything at all. You don't have to have a polished resume, you don't have to have your life put together at this table. The only thing that really matters is the person who invites you to it and the person that invites you to this table. It's King Jesus. And Jesus, man, he doesn't show up to applaud the self made.

Jesus didn't show up to reward the self righteous or the religious elite. No. Jesus said of himself, he said, man, I've come to come, I've come to seek and to save the lost. I've actually come to pull up a chair for you at the table. He welcomes the broken, he welcomes the unwanted.

He rewards the spiritually hungry. And I think if you were to open up this Bible right here, and if you were to go to the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, just read it at face value, you would see time and time again through Jesus ministry that the table of the living God is not for people who have earned it. The table of the living God is just offered. It's just offered. Jesus is the Savior who eats with sinners.

He's the Savior who welcomes the unwanted, the marginalized, the forgotten. Jesus said of himself, man, I am the bread of life. I am the living water. Come and drink all who are thirsty. He's the Redeemer who laid down his life so that you could become sons and daughters of God, not because of your merit, but because of his mercy.



And the good news is the invitation still stands. The invitation to come as you are, to pull up a seat at the table, to come and find belonging and forgiveness of sin, transformation and hope for all eternity. And as you see up on the screen here, our sermon series that will be in for three weeks is called Hope. This is such an appropriate title as we gear up to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus next Sunday. And today's sermon is titled Hope around the Table.

And as you can see, we've got two tables here, two in the back on your way in. And I want to share our big idea that we're going to talk about this morning. Our big idea is this. Hope is not found in what you bring to the table, but in who invites you to it. Hope is not found in what you bring to the table, but in who invites you to it.

And today we're actually going to be in the Old Testament. We're going to be in the book of Second Samuel. So if you have your Bible, you can go ahead and begin turning there. Kind of a funny passage to go to on Palm Sunday. But if there was anybody who did not deserve a seat at the table, it was the person that we're going to read about in this passage.

If there was anybody that couldn't bring anything to the table, it was the man we're going to read about in this passage. And my prayer has been that this morning as we read God's Word together, that it would just inspire us to love Jesus more with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, that it would inspire us to go to the Gospels and to read about his life and to see how Jesus, time and time and time again, literally changes people's lives around the table. So let's pray, and then we will go to Second Samuel, chapter nine. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father, thank you so much that you do invite us to the table, because quite frankly, Lord, we can't bring anything to it.

We have nothing to offer. But we thank you, Lord, that you loved us enough to send your son Jesus to pay for our sin and to make a way for us to have a new relationship with you, a right relationship with you, through faith in him. Thank you that there's an invitation to come to the table and to find hope. And our hope is found in him. We pray all these things in the mighty, matchless name of Jesus.

And all God's people said, Amen. So if you have your Bible again, we're going to be in Second Samuel, chapter nine. Second Samuel, chapter nine. A little bit of context before we get there. So our passage takes place not long after David has become king over all of Israel.

And his journey to that throne was anything but quick and anything but easy. So if you'll recall, David was anointed as king way back in First Samuel, Chapter 16. But it is not until Second Samuel, Chapter 5, that David actually becomes king, that he actually takes the throne. And



that's over a decade later. And during that time, man, David's life was just all over the place.

Twists and turns, ups and downs. I mean, he faced betrayal, he faced heartache. He was in constant danger. Remember, King Saul was after him. He wanted to kill David out of jealousy.

David actually served King Saul. But now we're in Second Samuel, chapter nine, and David has been firmly established as king. He's defeated all his enemies. He's actually secured the capital, Jerusalem there, and he's brought in the Ark of the Covenant. And interestingly enough, we're going to see that the first thing in chapter nine here, David's concerned not with military strategy, not with national security.

David's concerned with kindness. He's concerned about a promise that he made to a really good friend who is now gone. So pick up with me in verse one of chapter nine. And the word of God says this. And David said, is there still anyone left of the house of Saul that I may show kindness for Jonathan's sake?

Now, there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba. And they called him to David. And the king said to him, are you Ziba? And he said, I am your servant. I am your servant.

Who is Jonathan to David? Well, if you know anything about David and his life story, you know he had a best friend named Jonathan. And Jonathan and David were like BFF's best friends before Facebook, and they just did everything together. The scriptures actually say that they were so close that it was like their souls were knit together. And this is really interesting because Jonathan, logically was the next in line to the throne.

Jonathan was the son of King Saul. But Jonathan knew something about David. Jonathan knew that David had actually been anointed by God to be the future king, not him. And so instead of being jealous, instead of trying to, you know, grab onto any sort of power that he had left, no. Jonathan actually humbles himself to the plan of God.

And he says this to David. He makes a request of him. He says, hey, I know when you take the throne, things are going to be different. And he says, I want you to make a promise to me, David. He says, I want you to promise to be kind to my family.

And I know, like, at face value, that kind of seems like a simple thing, but I want you to think back with me to what you know, about ancient times and the transfer of power that accompanied that. Most of the time, when a new king would come in, what would he do to the previous dynasty? He would wipe everybody out. He would clean house. And so Jonathan's request, when



he says, I want you to be kind to my family, it's not just, hey, David, be nice to my kids, you know, in the future.

No, this is a request for mercy. And David promises that he will do that. And so fast forward to our passage today. It's been nearly 15 to 20 years since he made that promise, and it could have been so easily forgotten. You know, in that time, he lost.

David lost his mentor, Samuel. Jonathan died. Saul died. Israel was in kind of a civil war. There's all kinds of things going on with running an entire nation.

It could have been so, so easy for David to just forget that promise, but he doesn't. So here's our point, our first point that I want you to see out of this passage. Number one, God's promises are always kept. God's promises are always kept.

Let's be honest about promises for a second. Not all promises are created equal. We make promises to ourselves and to other people all the time. How many of you have ever said this? Maybe you said it this morning.

I certainly did. I'm only gonna hit the snooze button one time, right? How many of you ever said this about your diet? I'm gonna start my diet Monday or tomorrow. How many of you ever told your spouse or your boyfriend or your girlfriend, hey, I'm only gonna scroll on Instagram for about five minutes.

And then you just do this thing, you know, and it's like you've been on there death scrolling for 30 minutes. How many of you said, hey, I'm not gonna buy anything else from Amazon this month? We do this kind of stuff all the time. And in my mind, there's really two types of promises in this world, and this is how I think about them. You've got your gym membership promises, and then you've got your wedding vow promises.

All right, let's start with gym membership. Every year. What do we do? What do we say to ourselves, man, this is the year. This is the year I'm getting fit.

I want to look good in the swimsuit for summer. And so we do the gym membership thing. We might buy some new shoes. We get new athletic wear. We start buying protein powder and creatine.

We start drinking the green smoothies. You take a picture of yourself and you post it on social media. And then what happens after that? After a few weeks, after a few months go by, what



happens? Life.

Life goes by, right? And before you know it, the gym starts to get further and further away and. And the sofa starts to get closer and closer to you. And then before you realize it, you're like, man, I haven't been to the gym in months. And you look at your bank account statement and you're like, man, but I've been getting charged for this.

And you pull out your keys and you're like, this is the most expensive keychain and key fob I've got on my keychain. That's a rash promise. It's meant. Well, we've all done it. No shame.

But there's gym membership kind of promises in life. But then there's also wedding vow promises, life. Nobody comes to the altar and says, baby, I'm gonna love you until you annoy me, or, baby, I'm gonna love you until fantasy football season starts. And then I don't want to have anything to do with you. No, no, no.

You say for better or for worse, right? For richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part. That's not a mood. That is a covenant that you make. It's not a good intentions promise.

That's a hey, no matter what promise. And this is exactly the kind of promise that God makes. It's the exact kind of promise that God always makes. Promise is not based on feelings or convenience, but promises based on who he is, not how we perform. So if God says it, you can count on it.

But Maybe you're here this morning and you would say, man, but I've been waiting so long. So long. You know, looking back, I feel like God promised me this, and I've been waiting years for it. I don't really know what's going on right now. Did I miss something?

Did I mishear him? Did God forget? I feel like if you're going to take anything away from these first few verses in this passage, I hope it's this. Let David's story remind you that just because a promise kind of seems delayed, that doesn't mean that God's denied it. God has not forgotten.

God does not flake out like some friends do. He doesn't get distracted. He doesn't get disinterested. No, all his promises are coming true. First, Thessalonians 5.

24, a great small verse. It says this. He who calls you is faithful. He will surely do it. So if you find yourself in a season of waiting and wondering, man, where is God right now?

What is he doing? Just be reminded, man, God does not lose track of what he promised. So if he



said it, you can count on it. Look at verse three. And the king said, is there not still someone of the house of Saul that I may show the kindness of God to him?

Ziba said to the king, there is still a son of Jonathan. He is crippled in his feet. And we are going to learn later that his name is Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth. And I'm gonna have to say that about a thousand times today, so just hang on up.

In verse four, it says, the king said to him. He said, where is he? And Ziba said to the king, he is in the house of Makir, the son of Ammiel at Lo Debar. Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Makir, the son of Ammiel, at Lo Debar. Here's number two.

God's loving kindness never runs out. God's loving kindness never runs out. This is now the second time the word kindness has shown up in our passage today. But I want you to look at how David describes this kind of kindness. It's not just kindness in a general sense, no.

He says, I want to show someone, preferably this member of the house of Saul. I want to show that person the kindness of God. And I want to share with you a Hebrew word. It's hesed. But if you want to say it like a Hebrew, you got to spit a little bit.

It's like chesed. So turn to your neighbor and say, Chesed. Yeah, there you go. If you're not spitting, you're not doing it right. Okay, so it's hesed.

I'm just going to say it like that. That is such a crucial word for understanding who God is, especially while reading the Old Testament. And I'm going to give you a couple examples of what I mean by. When God wanted to describe who he was to the Israelites in the book of Exodus, he kind of wrote his own bio to them after he delivered them out of Egypt. He said this to them in Exodus 34, describing himself. He said, the Lord, the Lord, a God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, faithfulness.

That phrase, steadfast love is the Hebrew word hesed and it means God's love never, ever, ever runs out. And so God is essentially telling his people, he says, hey, when you think of me, I want you to think of this. When you think of me, when you worship me, I want you to know that this is how I want to be known. In Psalm 136, it's an amazing song. It's a psalm, it's a call and response, a back and forth, it's like a big ping pong game the whole time.

And every single other line in that psalm is the same line. And it says this. For his steadfast love endures forever. For his steadfast love endures forever. For his steadfast love endures forever.



And if you were to read it from the beginning to the end, you would see that it goes from creation, then it picks up with God delivering the Israelites out of Egypt. Then it goes to their military conquest and it goes to their daily provisions. And every single sentence it's chased with. And his steadfast love endures forever. The idea here is that it keeps going and going and going.

One more Psalm 23, probably the most famous psalm in all of the Bible. It's the psalm that David wrote. And he says, the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He's basically saying, God is the shepherd of my life, I am the sheep in his pasture. And at the end of this psalm it ends like this.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. That word mercy is the word hesed. I think the idea here is that man, when you encounter God's love, it's not a one time thing. God's love is something that follows you all the days of your life. It is chasing behind you.

It is something that never, ever, ever runs out. This is the kind of love that David is about to display to the son of Jonathan, named, again, Mephibosheth. Here's what we know about Mephibosheth. He's going to come on the scene in just a second. But here's what we know about Mephibosheth.

It says that he was crippled in both of his feet. If you were to go back and read about his life, we've got a few details that we can piece together. But when his dad, Jonathan, died in battle, he was fighting the Philistines. And as he died in battle, news came back to the palace and Mephibosheth. At the time, he was only five years old.

And they got word that the Philistines were probably coming. They're going to overrun the palace. And so the nurse that was in charge of taking care of him, she scooped him up in her arms and she trips and he falls. And he falls in such a way. We don't have all the details, but he falls in such a way that he actually becomes permanently disabled in his feet.

He can't ever walk again. Now, I want you to just kind of put yourself in that mindset for a second. Remember, we're talking about ancient Israel. This was an agrarian society. It thrived on the military.

And so in terms of Mephibosheth, man, he couldn't work, he certainly couldn't fight. And so by societal standards those days, like, he was practically useless. And I know that sounds harsh, but that really is the way that it was back then. We know that he had this permanent disability. We also know a couple other things about him.



And I think this is very interesting from the text. It says that he is living in someone's household. He is living in the house of Makir, the son of Ammiel, at Lo Debar. Not his own household, not any property that he had. I think from this we can infer that he was in hiding.

He was probably quite terrified of King David, knowing that he might be the only lone survivor out there. And then one day, he gets a knock on the door. He was probably in hiding. And it says that he was living in an obscure town called Lo Debar. Where is Lo Debar?

Lo Debar is to the south of the Sea of Galilee. And this city's name literally means no pasture, place of nothing. So don't miss this. David is quite literally looking for a nobody from nowhere with nothing to offer. And David says, I want him.

I want that guy. He's the one. I'll send for him. I'll go and I'll get him. And maybe this morning, I don't know if you've ever been there in your life.

Maybe you're there this morning. Maybe you're thinking the exact same way as Mephibosheth right here, right now. Too far gone for God, too broken by my past. But please hear me on this. I hope you see this in this text, and I hope you see it throughout all of the Scriptures, that God's loving kindness never, ever runs out.

This is in 2nd Samuel, chapter 9. Go with me in your mind to John 3:16. It says, For God so loved the world that he gave his son, Jesus. Jesus, stepping down out of his heavenly home, taking on earthly flesh and going all the way to the cross for you and for me, so that you could become sons and daughters through faith, says that whoever believes in him would be given new life. And this life is life to the max, life to the full.

And he did it for you. So don't ever believe the lie that God could never love somebody like you. They would never want somebody like you. Friend, I think you are exactly the person that he came for. Look with me.

In verse six, it says, and Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, mephibosheth. And he answered, behold, I am your servant. And David said to him, do not fear. You could probably tell he was terrified.

He said, do not fear, for I will show you kindness. There it is, the third time. Kindness for the sake of your father, Jonathan. And I will restore to you all the land of Saul, your father. And you shall eat at my table always.



And he paid homage and said, who is your or what is your servant that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I? Here's number three. God's grace covers your shame. God's grace covers your shame. Again, think with me.

Try to put yourself in Mephibosheth's shoes. You're in hiding. You're at someone else's, in someone else's household. You're at low debar, place of nothing. Nobody comes looking for anybody in places of nothing.

You're hiding out. And all of a sudden you get a knock on the door, gulp, and it's David's men. He's found you. What do you think is running through his mind? I am toast.

I am toast. I'm probably going to be executed. At the very least, I'm going to be exiled. And so they round him up. And that's probably the longest drive.

Not drive, longest ride of his life, all the way from Lo Debar to Jerusalem. And he comes into the throne room and he bows down. He's terrified. And instead of being condemned, what does he receive? He receives grace.

David says, don't be afraid. Don't be afraid. I'm going to restore all the property to you that was in your grandfather's name. I'm going to give you power. I'm going to give you a position.

I'm going to give you a place at my table. And in an instant, Mephibosheth goes from fear to favor. He goes from hiding to honor. He goes from being in a place where he was cast aside to being treated like a son.

But it was really hard, I think, for him to accept that, because you can hear it in his response. He says, man, why would you treat somebody like me in that way? Why would you be so kind to somebody like me? A dead dog. That's not guilt talking.

That's shame. That shame. And there is a difference between the two. There is. Guilt is more about man, I did something bad.

Shame, on the other hand, is something that's focused on, I am bad. Guilt, says, man, I've done something wrong. It's all about my behavior. Shame is more about who you are. It's more about your identity.

But hear me on this. Guilt, actually, under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, can be a really good thing because it can lead to you trusting in Jesus, saying, I see it now. I've wronged you. I've



sinned against you. I want you, I need you in my life to cover my shame and my guilt.

I need you to forgive me. Shame, on the other hand, can be a deceitful thing. The enemy loves to use it. The enemy loves to use shame to almost put up a wall so you don't come to the table. He loves to whisper little things in your ear like, you don't belong there.

Why would somebody like you get invited to something like that? If you showed up, you'd probably ruin the whole thing for everybody there. But the reality of the Gospel is that the king already knows your story. He already knows your story. He's saving a seat for you, setting a seat for you.

Not surprised by your shame. Because by the blood of Jesus, he's come to cover it. Look at verse nine, it says, then the king called Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, all that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson. I'm giving it to Mephibosheth. And you and your sons and your servants shall till the land for him and shall bring in the produce that your master's grandson may have bread to eat.

But Mephibosheth, your master's grandson, shall always eat at my table. Now, Ziba had 15 sons and 20 servants. Then Ziba said to the king, according to all that, my lord, the king commands his servant, so will your servant do. So Mephibosheth ate at David's table like one of the king's sons. And Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Micah.

And all who lived in Ziba's house became Mephibosheth's servants. And so Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate always at the king's table. Now he was lame in both his feet. Here's our last point. God's table changes you forever.

God's table changes you forever. In an instant, David grants him power. He gives him a position. He gives him a place at his table. And not only that, he tells Ziba, who used to work for King Saul, he says, now you're going to be working for his grandson, Mephibosheth.

He's going to be serving Mephibosheth. And his life changed in an instant. And not only his life. As you look back in the text, it says that Mephibosheth's son was also listed there. That means that his life was changed forever.

And really, that's how God works. When God changes a person, when he gives you hope, he gives you hope for eternity. And I think one of the reasons why I really resonate with this story is because part of my story revolves around the Lord's table as well. Part of my story was my life being changed when I had an opportunity to come to the Lord's table. When I was in high school,



I had a crush on a girl named Lindsay.

And spoiler alert, I married her. So you got to stick with it. So I had a crush on this girl named Lindsay. And she called me one day and she said, hey, would you like to come listen to my boyfriend? Her boyfriend at the time?

She said, play music, her words. And I said, sure. You know, if Lindsay's inviting me to something, I'm going to say yes to it. Any opportunity to go and be with her is a win in my book. And so I met her at this place where this person was playing music.

And I pulled up and realized, man, this isn't just him playing music like, this is a church service. And so she tricked me, which is totally fine now. But went in, went in, and, you know, he was fantastic. The speaker was fantastic. There were a lot of other students around my age, and I don't really remember much about the sermon or really the entire experience except the fact at the end of the service, he invited the students to come down front to receive communion to the Lord's table.

And I had taken communion many, many times in my life. I mean, I was basically raised in church. And I remember what that looked like, what the process was. But I think looking back now, I just viewed it as a ritual, just something you did because you were here. That's what everybody else was doing.

But there was something different that night. And I couldn't put my finger on it then. But I think what was happening was that I realized that it really was King Jesus who was inviting me to his table. And I realized in that moment, I don't think I know this guy. And so I just froze.

All these other students went to the front. They were praying, and they were taking the bread and the cup. And I was just standing there, frozen. Looking back on it now, I think I really did feel like Mephibosheth being invited to a table that man I didn't think I belonged at. Just like Mephibosheth.

I think I was living in a spiritual lo debar, a place of nothing. I was broken. I was confused, unsure if I belonged. But the king was calling. He was calling me to his table.

Not a reward for having it all together, but based on his grace, an invitation to come and be made whole. So I remember going home and that summer really just wrestling with some questions that I'd never really asked before. And I know you've heard this. People say God works in mysterious ways, and he totally does, because I started watching on television any



televangelist that I could find, okay? And you got to be careful doing that.

But I stumbled upon a lady. I won't even tell you her name, but I stumbled upon a lady. And I'll tell you, all her reruns were basically like women's conference reruns. So I'm there over the summer at my house, basically attending women's conferences all summer, listening and just trying to find out who this Jesus guy is. What is this thing about salvation by grace through faith and praise God?

I remember at the very end of one of her programs, she said, hey, if you would like to trust Christ, if you want to give your life to him and start following Jesus, you could pray something like this. And I remember I just gave my life to Jesus. I wanted him. So today, maybe you're sensing the King calling you to the table as well. Maybe you're here and you've got questions.

Maybe you're here today and you would say, man, I just feel. I feel so unworthy to go to a place like that. Maybe shame is something that you've been wrestling with for a long, long time. I hope you see in this passage that the King knows you. He sees you.

He knows your past, he knows your present, he knows your future. And he still is inviting you to his table. Because again, hope isn't found in what you bring to the table. Hope is found in the one who invites you to it.