

## WHOSE IN THE HOUSE

### LESSON 22 – ABC

#### QUESTIONS

USING MEPHIBOSHETH AS AN EXAMPLE, EXPLAIN THE CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL SONS (sons of the set man).  
(Read 1 Sam. 18: 1-4; 1 Sam. 20: 15-17; 2 Sam. 4:4; 2 Sam. 9:1-13; 2 Sam. 19:24-30; 2 Sam. 21)

EXPLAIN THE CHARACTERISTICS OF ZIBA, THE SLAVE OF SAUL.  
(2 Sam.9)

EXPLAIN THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SONS OF SAUL.  
(2 Sam. 21)

EXPLAIN THE “SPIRIT OF SONSHIP” AS DEMONSTRATED IN THE LIFE OF ITTAI THE GITTITE.  
(2 Sam. 15:13-22)

EXPLAIN THE FRIENDSHIP OF HUSHAI THE ARCHITE.  
(2 Sam. 15:32 –37)

EXPLAIN THE CHARACTERISTICS OF AN INTERCESSOR USING RIZPAH AS AN EXAMPLE.  
(2 Sam. 21:8-14)

#### WHOSE IN THE HOUSE - ANSWERS

### LESSON 22 - ABC

#### 1 Sam 18:1-4

- 1 Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.
- 2 Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore.
- 3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.
- 4 And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.(NKJ)

Jonathan was attracted to the Davidic anointing. He was amazed by David's expertise in dealing with Goliath. Jonathan loved David and entered into covenant with him.

1 Sam 20:15-17

15 "but you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth."

16 So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "Let the LORD require it at the hand of David's enemies."

17 Now Jonathan again caused David to vow, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul.(NKJ)

Jonathan confirmed the covenant with David. He recognised that David was God-appointed. He knew that David would be king one day. He urged David to remember his children in the covenant.

2 Sam 4:4

Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who was lame in his feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel; and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth.(NKJ)

Jonathan and Saul died in the battlefield. The nurse, under the false impression that David would kill all of Saul's children, fled with Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth.. She accidentally dropped him, crushing both his feet. Mephibosheth settled in Lodebar and grows up lame.

2 Sam 9:1-13

1 Now David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

2 And there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "At your service!"

3 Then the king said, "Is there not still someone 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 lame in his feet."

4 So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Indeed he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar."

5 Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar.

6 Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, "Mephibosheth?" And he answered, "Here is your servant!"

7 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."

8 Then he bowed himself, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look

upon such a dead dog as I?"

9 And the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house.

10 "You therefore, and your sons and your servants, shall work the land for him, and you shall bring in the harvest, that your master's son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's son shall eat bread at my table always." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

11 Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will your servant do." "As for Mephibosheth," said the king, "he shall eat at my table like one of the king's sons."

12 Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Micha. And all who dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants of Mephibosheth.

13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table. And he was lame in both his feet.(NKJ)

David is now on the throne in Zion. He is a man of integrity. He wishes to fulfill the covenant he made with Jonathan. David sends for Mephibosheth.

When Mephibosheth comes before the king, 3 views regarding himself are expressed.

8 Then he bowed himself, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?"

11 Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will your servant do." "As for Mephibosheth," said the king, "he shall eat at my table like one of the king's sons."

#### SERVANT(ebed - slave) OF DAVID

He must be told what to do – he waits for commands.

He is not in covenant with the house. He is there because of captivity.

He has no rights or freedom.

He is an instrument of labour.

#### MANY BELIEVERS IN A LOCAL CHURCH OPERATE AT THIS LEVEL.

John 8:35

"And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.(NKJ)

#### DEAD DOG

A dog is a man's best friend. A dead dog is a useless companion – bringing nothing in and taking nothing out.

A DEAD DOG REPRESENTS THOSE WHO ADD NO VALUE TO THE HOUSE.

## SON

Denotes bonafide membership, and covenantal relationship.

David accepts Mephibosheth as a son because of the covenant he made with Jonathan.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF SONS USING MEPHIBOSHETH AS A PICTURE OF A SPIRITUAL SON.

### SONS ABANDON LODEBAR

Mephibosheth had to leave Lodebar to sit at David's table.

Lodebar means dry place, place without pasture. It is a geographical symbol of rebellion.

Sons are not rebellious.

4 So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Indeed he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar."

5 Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar.

### SONS SIT AT THE SET MAN'S TABLE

7 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."

This is a covenantal relationship with the local church that the set man leads. Note the word "continually". This is marriage to a local church. Sons do not move from church to church.

### SONS EAT THE SET MAN'S FOOD

7 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."

Sons feed on the set man's revelation. The anointing of the set man is in his food.

### SONS IDENTIFY WITH THE SET MAN'S PAIN

2 Sam 19:24

Now Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king. And he had not cared

for his feet, nor trimmed his mustache, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he returned in peace.

When David was rejected Mephibosheth demonstrated David's pain. He looked like the way David felt. He was afflicted when David was afflicted.

#### SONS SUFFER FALSE ACCUSATION

2 Sam 19:27

"And he has slandered your servant to my lord the king, but my lord the king is like the angel of God. Therefore do what is good in your eyes.(NKJ)

Sons suffer slander.

They are hated by the "Zibas" in the house.

#### SONS SURRENDER TO THE SET MAN'S DISCIPLINE

2 Sam 19:27

"And he has slandered your servant to my lord the king, but my lord the king is like the angel of God. Therefore do what is good in your eyes.

They are able to accept the discipline even if it is wrong.

#### SONS STAY BECAUSE OF RELATIONSHIP, NOT BECAUSE OF INHERITANCE.

2 Sam 19:24-30

Then Mephibosheth said to the king, "Rather, let him take it all, inasmuch as my lord the king has come back in peace to his own house."(NKJ)

Mephibosheth was prepared to surrender his inheritance to Ziba.

#### SONS ARE BOUND BY GRATITUDE

2 Sam 19:28

"For all my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king. Yet you set your servant among those who eat at your own table. Therefore what right have I still to cry out anymore to the king?"(NKJ)

Mephibosheth was lame. He appreciated the fact that David's table covered his defect. Do not have the feet of betrayal.

#### SONS SURVIVE IN CRISES

2 Sam 21:6-7

6 "let seven men of his descendants be delivered to us, and we will hang them before the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, whom the LORD chose." And the king said, "I will give them."

7 But the king spared Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, because of the LORD'S oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul.(NKJ)

Mephibosheth survived the judgement of famine because of his covenantal relationship with David.

#### SONS SEE BREAKTHROUGH

2 Sam 21:10-14

10 Now Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until the late rains poured on them from heaven. And she did not allow the birds of the air to rest on them by day nor the beasts of the field by night.

11 And David was told what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done.

12 Then David went and took the bones of Saul, and the bones of Jonathan his son, from the men of Jabesh Gilead who had stolen them from the street of Beth Shan, where the Philistines had hung them up, after the Philistines had struck down Saul in Gilboa.

13 So he brought up the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from there; and they gathered the bones of those who had been hanged.

14 They buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the tomb of Kish his father. So they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God heeded the prayer for the land.(NKJ)

Because Mephibosheth did not die in judgement he lived to see good days – the rain, the harvest, the end of the famine.

Jesus is our pattern. He is the son of God and son of man. You must be someone's son.

#### SERVANT/SLAVE OF SAUL

2 Sam 9:2

2 And there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "At your service!"(NKJ)

2 Sam 9:9-12

9 Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family.

10 You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master's grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table." (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.)

11 Then Ziba said to the king, "Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table like one of the king's sons.

12 Mephibosheth had a young son named Mica, and all the members of Ziba's household were servants of Mephibosheth.(NIV)

2 Sam 19:17

"And he has slandered your servant to my lord the king, but my lord the king is like the angel of God. Therefore do what is good in your eyes.

Ziba belongs to an old order. He was Saul's slave. His name means "appointed one". He is in the house by inheritance, not by covenant. He acts only when appointed - Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do. He will serve David just as he served Saul. He is not there because of the set man – he is there because of the institution and the benefits of the institution. He is not after David's mantle. He is after David's possessions.

He represents a brand that is antagonistic to sonship - And he has slandered your servant to my lord the king. Sons are a threat to their wealth. To protect the house ensure that the "Zibas" serve under the sons.

10 You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master's grandson may be provided for.

## SONS OF SAUL

2 Sam 21:1-6

1 Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David inquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, "It is because of Saul and his bloodthirsty house, because he killed the Gibeonites."

2 So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them. Now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; the children of Israel had sworn protection to them, but Saul had sought to kill them in his zeal for the children of Israel and Judah.

3 Therefore David said to the Gibeonites, "What shall I do for you? And with what shall I make atonement, that you may bless the inheritance of the LORD?"

4 And the Gibeonites said to him, "We will have no silver or gold from Saul or from his house, nor shall you kill any man in Israel for us." So he said, "Whatever you say, I will do for you."

5 Then they answered the king, "As for the man who consumed us and plotted against us, that we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the territories of Israel,

6 "let seven men of his descendants be delivered to us, and we will hang them

before the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, whom the LORD chose." And the king said, "I will give them."(NKJ)

2 Sam 21:8-9

8 So the king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bore to Saul; and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite;

9 and he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them on the hill before the LORD. So they fell, all seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest.

(NKJ)

#### CHARACTERISTICS

They are inherited.

Belong to the old order.

Have no ministry.

Sons of a past move.

Exist because of David's goodness.

Bring nothing into the house-but keep taking out. They enjoy the blessings of the house.

THEY CANNOT SURVIVE IN CRISIS(FAMINE). THEY ARE HANGED FROM A TREE – CURSED.

THEY DO NOT SEE THE RAIN.

THEY DO NOT SEE THE HARVEST.

THEY DO NOT EXPERIENCE BREAKTHROUGH(THE RESULTS OF RIZPAH'S PRAYER)

#### SPIRIT OF SONS

2 Sam 15:13-22

13 Now a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom."

14 So David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise, and let us flee; or we shall not escape from Absalom. Make haste to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly and bring disaster upon us, and strike the city with the edge of the sword."

15 And the king's servants said to the king, "We are your servants, ready to do whatever my lord the king commands."

16 Then the king went out with all his household after him. But the king left ten women, concubines, to keep the house.

17 And the king went out with all the people after him, and stopped at the outskirts.

18 Then all his servants passed before him; and all the Cherethites, all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men who had followed him from Gath, passed before the king.

19 Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why are you also going with us? Return

and remain with the king. For you are a foreigner and also an exile from your own place.

20 "In fact, you came only yesterday. Should I make you wander up and down with us today, since I go I know not where? Return, and take your brethren back. Mercy and truth be with you."

21 And Ittai answered the king and said, "As the LORD lives, and as my lord the king lives, surely in whatever place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also your servant will be."

22 So David said to Ittai, "Go, and cross over." Then Ittai the Gittite and all his men and all the little ones who were with him crossed over.

(NKJ)

This is a very difficult moment in David's life. His son Absalom conspired to dethrone him. His "church" is split. Morale is very low. An atmosphere of discouragement prevails.

Ittai the Gittite, a foreigner, an exile who "only came yesterday", who had not had the privilege of sitting at David's table and eating David's food, speaks the language of a true son of a set man whose church is in crisis:

21 And Ittai answered the king and said, "As the LORD lives, and as my lord the king lives, surely in whatever place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also your servant will be."

Ittai means "on time". God will send people on time with the character of true sons.

## FRIENDS

2 Sam 15:32-37

32 Now it happened when David had come to the top of the mountain, where he worshiped God-- there was Hushai the Archite coming to meet him with his robe torn and dust on his head.

33 David said to him, "If you go on with me, then you will become a burden to me.

34 "But if you return to the city, and say to Absalom, 'I will be your servant, O king; as I was your father's servant previously, so I will now also be your servant,' then you may defeat the counsel of Ahithophel for me.

35 "And do you not have Zadok and Abiathar the priests with you there? Therefore it will be that whatever you hear from the king's house, you shall tell to Zadok and Abiathar the priests.

36 "Indeed they have there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz, Zadok's son, and Jonathan, Abiathar's son; and by them you shall send me everything you hear."

37 So Hushai, David's friend, went into the city. And Absalom came into Jerusalem.

(NKJ)

2 Sam 17:14-15

14 So Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "The advice of Hushai the Archite is better than the advice of Ahithophel." For the LORD had purposed to defeat the good advice of Ahithophel, to the intent that the LORD might bring disaster on Absalom.

15 Then Hushai said to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, "Thus and so Ahithophel advised Absalom and the elders of Israel, and thus and so I have advised.(NKJ)

Hushai joined the conspirators with the intent of spying for David. He frustrated the counsel of Ahithophel and brought disaster on Absalom.

Hushai is called David's friend.

Hushai risked his life for David's victory.

Hushai took sides.

Friends take sides.

In a local church, the set man needs friends like Hushai.

## RIZPAH THE INTERCESSOR

2 Sam 21:8-14

8 So the king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bore to Saul; and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite;

9 and he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them on the hill before the LORD. So they fell, all seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest.

10 Now Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until the late rains poured on them from heaven. And she did not allow the birds of the air to rest on them by day nor the beasts of the field by night.

11 And David was told what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done.

12 Then David went and took the bones of Saul, and the bones of Jonathan his son, from the men of Jabesh Gilead who had stolen them from the street of Beth Shan, where the Philistines had hung them up, after the Philistines had struck down Saul in Gilboa.

13 So he brought up the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from there; and they gathered the bones of those who had been hanged.

14 They buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the tomb of Kish his father. So they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God heeded the prayer for the land.(NKJ)

Rizpah was the concubine of Saul. She suffered the consequence of Saul's sin. She had to surrender her 2 sons for execution. Her sons were hanged from a tree.

Gal 3:13

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),(NKJ)

Her sons were cursed because of Saul's actions.  
But Rizpah was not prepared to accept the curse.

10 Now Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until the late rains poured on them from heaven. And she did not allow the birds of the air to rest on them by day nor the beasts of the field by night.

She did 3 things:

#### TOOK SACKCLOTH

This is a symbol of mourning and repentance. She mourned for her sons. But she could also have been repenting for the sins of Saul.

#### SAT ON THE ROCK

She rested on the rock – a metaphorical designation of Christ. This is the heart of an intercessor - to mourn for the sins of others and to rest on Christ.

#### RESISTED THE BIRDS AND THE BEASTS

She resisted the birds and the beasts – pictures of devouring demons.

Rizpah fought back to break the curse.

She did this for several months – from the beginning of the harvest to the late rains. She did this till the rains came down.

This is the heart of a true intercessor – to resist till the rain (the Holy Spirit) manifests. She continued till the king took notice.

A true intercessor will continue until God takes notice and the famine is broken.

Because of Rizpah's intercession the curse was broken – bones removed from the tree and given a royal burial.

12 Then David went and took the bones of Saul, and the bones of Jonathan his son, from the men of Jabesh Gilead who had stolen them from the street of Beth Shan, where the Philistines had hung them up, after the Philistines had struck down Saul in Gilboa.

13 So he brought up the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from there; and they gathered the bones of those who had been hanged.

Rizpah means “pavement”. Intercessory ministry is a pavement ministry. Makes a way for others to walk on. Rizpah represents those in the church who are prepared to suffer for others to breakthrough.