



**UPGRADED
A RAGS TO RICHES STORY
Devotion And Discussion Guide**

Luke 14:7-11 ESV

⁷ Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, ⁹ and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹ For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Opening Thoughts:

- Jesus takes note of the religious Pharisees and how they positioned themselves, seeking honor. Jesus seizes the opportunity to teach that the kingdom of heaven does not operate like this.
- Jesus looks for the humble, meek, broken poor, and hurting that He may lift them up out of the ashes and bring them into the riches of His glory. From where has He lifted you? Stop and praise Him for all He has done.
- Jesus elevates the humble and humbles the elevated.

Key Takeaway: The heart of our Savior is always to elevate you from where you are to where He is.

- The story of the friendship between David and Jonathan ends with a “rags to riches story” when David remembers a covenant between him and Jonathan.

2 Samuel 9:1-8 ESV

And David said, “Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?” ² 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.” ³ 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.” ⁴ The king said to him, “Where is he?” And Ziba said to the king, “He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar.” ⁵ Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar. ⁶ 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.” ⁷ And David said to him, “Do not fear, for I will show you 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.” ⁸ And he paid homage and said, “What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?”

1) A Series of Unfortunate Events had Demoted a King's Son to the Seat of a Dead Dog (verse 8).

- What did you learn from the summary of Mephibosheth's dilemma? Have you ever found yourself in one or more of these places?
 - He was a displaced son.
 - He came from a disgraced family.
 - He had a devastating past.
 - He lived in a desolate place.
 - He was in a desperate situation.
- Mephibosheth couldn't turn his situation around, but the king could. David called him to the palace, and he came in fear. This is the heart of our Savior, to lift us up from where we are to where He is. What area of your life have you found it impossible to turn around? What steps can you take to surrender to your Savior?
- Life Principle: Stop striving, start surrendering.

2) A Covenant with a King's Son Promoted this Son to a Seat at the King's Table (verse 13).

- The heart of our Savior can be seen in David's actions he took toward Mephibosheth.
 - David moved first (see Colossians 2:13).
 - David moved for Jonathan's sake (see Ephesians 1:4).
 - David moved with grace (see Ephesians 2:8-9).
 - David moved Mephibosheth to His table (Ephesians 1:4-6).
- Even though Mephibosheth found himself sitting at the table, he still felt like he didn't belong. Have you ever found yourself seated in a place you didn't belong or didn't deserve? How do you see this as a parallel to what Jesus has done for you or wants to do for you?
- Life Principle: Jesus sends the invitation for you to join His family and moves you from a desolate place to a place in His Kingdom.

3) The Sacrifice of a king Promoted this Son to the King's Seat (2 Samuel 9:7-10)

- Read 2 Samuel 9:7-10. Ziba was the steward of Saul's estate, he and his sons now tended to the property. What can you learn as you consider the following truths about Ziba?
 - He was manipulative.
 - He was resentful.
 - He was deceitful.
 - Have you had someone manipulate, resent, deceive or steal from you? Ziba had exalted himself, but what did Jesus say he would do to those that exalt themselves (Luke 14:11)? In light of this truth what should you do under these circumstances?
- Read Ephesians 2:4-7. Jesus has an upgrade for you; so much more! What is his promise for you in these verses? How does this encourage you in your time of distress?
- Life Principle: Jesus humbles the exalted and exalts the humble.

Application:

- **Key Takeaway: The heart of our Savior is always to elevate you from where you are to where He is.**
- You have been upgraded! Build your faith by renewing your mind on the following truths in Scripture.

WHO I AM IN CHRIST (Originally Compiled by Neil Anderson)

I AM ACCEPTED...

- John 1:12 I am God's child.
- John 15:15 As a disciple, I am a friend of Jesus Christ.
- Romans 5:1 I have been justified (declared righteous).
- 1 Corinthians 6:17 I am united with the Lord, and I am one with Him in spirit.
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 I have been bought with a price and I belong to God.
- 1 Corinthians 12:27 I am a member of Christ's body.
- Ephesians 1:3-8 I have been chosen by God and adopted as His child.
- Colossians 1:13-14 I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.
- Colossians 2:9-10 I am complete in Christ.
- Hebrews 4:14-16 I have direct access to the throne of grace through Jesus Christ.

I AM SECURE...

- Romans 8:1-2 I am free from condemnation.
- Romans 8:28 I am assured that God works for my good in all circumstances.
- Romans 8:31-39 I am free from any condemnation brought against me and I cannot be separated from the love of God.
- 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 I have been established, anointed and sealed by God.
- Colossians 3:1-4 I am hidden with Christ in God.
- Philippians 1:6 I am confident that God will complete the good work He started in me.
- Philippians 3:20 I am a citizen of heaven.
- 2 Timothy 1:7 I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind.
- 1 John 5:18 I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.

I AM SIGNIFICANT...

- John 15:5 I am a branch of Jesus Christ, the true vine, and a channel of His life.
- John 15:16 I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.
- 1 Corinthians 3:16 I am God's temple.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 I am a minister of reconciliation for God.
- Ephesians 2:6 I am seated with Jesus Christ in the heavenly realm.
- Ephesians 2:10 I am God's workmanship.
- Ephesians 3:12 I may approach God with freedom and confidence.
- Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.