

The Orphan Spirit — Jay Zinn 8/21/11

Deut 10:17-19

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. 18 He defends the cause of the **fatherless** and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. 19 And you are to love those who are aliens, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt.

Deut 14:28-29

At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns, 29 so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the aliens, the **fatherless** and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

Deut 16:10-12

Celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the Lord your God has given you. 11 And rejoice before the Lord your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name — you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, the Levites in your towns, and the aliens, the **fatherless** and the widows living among you. 12 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt, and follow carefully these decrees.

Deut 24:19-22

When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. 20 When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the alien, the **fatherless** and the widow. 21 When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow. 22 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. That is why I command you to do this.

2 Sam 4:4

(Jonathan son of Saul had a son who was lame in both feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel. His nurse picked him up and fled, but as she hurried to leave, he fell and became crippled. His name was Mephibosheth.)

2 Sam 9:1-12

David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

2 Now there was a servant of Saul's household named Ziba. They called him to appear before David, and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?"

"Your servant," he replied.

3 The king asked, "Is there no one still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?"

Ziba answered the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet."

4 "Where is he?" the king asked.

Ziba answered, "He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar."

5 So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel.

6 When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor.

David said, "Mephibosheth!"

"Your servant," he replied.

7 "Don't be afraid," David said to him, "for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, **and you will always eat at my table.**"

8 Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?"

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. 13 And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, **because he always ate at the king's table, and he was crippled in both feet.**

Esther 2:15-16

When the turn came for Esther (the girl Mordecai had **adopted**, the daughter of his uncle Abihail) to go to the king, she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the harem, suggested. And Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her.

Job 29:11-12

11 Whoever heard me spoke well of me, and those who saw me commended me,

12 because I rescued the poor who cried for help, and the **fatherless** who had none to assist him.

Psalms 68:5-6

5 A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. 6 God sets the lonely in families, he leads forth the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

Psalms 82:3-4

3 Defend the cause of the weak and **fatherless**; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.

4 **Rescue the weak and needy**; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

John 14:15-18

15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 **I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.**

Luke 15:25-32

25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' 28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! **All these years I've been slaving for you** and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

31 **"My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.** 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'"

8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because **this man, too, is a son of Abraham.** 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and **to save what was lost.**"

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, 5 to redeem those under law, **that we might receive the full rights of sons.** 6 Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." 7 **So you are no longer a slave, but a son;** and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

Ephesians 1:3-7

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us **to be adopted as his sons** through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

James 1:27

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after **orphans** and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

The Girl with No Name – by Cec Murphey

I don't hear the term, "a mother in Israel," used often these days. It appears only a couple of times in the Old Testament. When I was fairly young in the faith, I used to hear it regularly.

The term refers to a woman who wraps her arms around others and expresses nurturing, motherly love, or ministry to the hurting. She is not necessarily a birth mother.

I want to tell you about a mother in Israel. The story goes back to the days my wife, Shirley, and I spent in Kenya. After we had been there at least a year, Shirley, who had learned the Luo language, went to a women's convention with Africans Margaret and Wilfrida.

After they arrived at Kadem in our VW Bug, Shirley saw a little girl sitting alone next to a fire outside a hut. She guessed the child was maybe eight years old. Her matted hair, dirty skin, and a dress that defied naming the color stirred up deep compassion in Shirley. She held out her hand to the child and introduced herself.

The girl stared at her mutely.

Shirley tried again to talk to her.

One of the women said, "Just ignore her. She doesn't talk."

"What's her name?" my wife asked.

The woman shrugged. "We forget. **She doesn't have a name.**"

She told Shirley that the girl had been normal as an infant, but when she was a toddler she fell into the cooking fire and her head struck one of the large stones. She also burned her back and still had scars. "Since then, she doesn't speak. She points or gestures and we understand," the woman said.

Although Shirley couldn't put it into words, she felt a deep tenderness for the girl. She took the child's hand and they walked together to the hut where the guests stayed.

From that time on, little No Name constantly stayed at Shirley's side. When my wife stood to speak, No Name sat in her chair. As soon as Shirley returned, the little girl sat in her lap. Shirley hugged her often and spoke softly to her. No Name gave no indication she heard or understood.

At the end of the convention, Shirley, Margaret, and Wilfrida packed the VW and prepared to leave. Little No Name ran up to the car and jumped on the running board. "Aheri," she said.

"She's talking!" Margaret yelled. Soon at least twenty women gathered around and marveled at the words of the child. "It's a miracle!"

And it was a miracle.

And perhaps just as great a miracle was what she said to Shirley.

"Aheri" means "I love you."