

**THE GIFT OF SPEECH, Pt 7**  
**Examples of Talking Too Soon**  
**Christian Character in Action: Lesson 23**

29 July 2022

**“I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me.”**

Psalm 39:1

What happens when you don't bridle the tongue and keep it under control?

**THE ACCOUNT OF JOSEPH AND POTIPHAR (Genesis 39:1-20)**

- 1-4 Potiphar was very fortunate to have a man such as Joseph working for him, making him prosperous.
- 7-9 Potiphar's wife was an immoral woman and desired to have Joseph commit adultery with her. Joseph refused her because it was **“great wickedness”** and a **“sin against God.”**
- 10-15 Insulted by Joseph's refusal to lie with her, Potiphar's wife accused Joseph of attempting to rape her. She is an unfaithful adulterous liar.
- 16-20 When Potiphar got the false report concerning Joseph, he unwisely neglected to investigate and make sure he was being told the truth. Joseph went to prison, not only because of Mrs. Potiphar's lies, but because Potiphar spoke too soon.

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**THE ACCOUNT OF DAVID, MEPHIBOSHETH, AND ZIBA (2 Samuel 9:1-10)**

- Vs 1 David desired to show kindness to someone from Saul's household for Jonathan's sake.
  - 2-4 Ziba, Saul's former servant, informed King David of a son of Jonathan named Mephibosheth a man who was lame on his feet, unable to provide for himself.
  - 5-8 David's treatment of Mephibosheth is a picture of what Jesus did for you and me when he saved an undeserving wretch who had a problem with his walk. He elevated him to a place at his own table and treated him like he was part of the royal family. Like you and I, Mephibosheth did nothing to earn or deserve the kindness of the king.
  - 9-10 Ziba and his sons were assigned to tend the land that David gave to Mephibosheth. This is going to cause Ziba to feel bitter towards Mephibosheth.
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## **DAVID IN EXILE/ZIBA SLANDERS MEPHIBOSHETH (2 Samuel 16:1-4)**

When Ziba reported to David that Mephibosheth was no longer faithful to him, David spoke rashly (too soon without investigating) and became angry and resentful toward Mephibosheth and gave all that pertained to Mephibosheth to Ziba.

## **DAVID RETURNS/MEPHIBOSHETH PRONOUNCES HIS LOYALTY TO DAVID (2 Sam 19:24-29).**

**Vs 24** Mephibosheth met David as he returned to the throne. He had imposed the same hardships upon himself as David had faced in exile (unshaved, clothes not washed, hygiene neglected).

**25-27** Ziba had deceived, abandoned, and slandered Mephibosheth to the king.

- Ziba was unhappy about the good fortune of Mephibosheth.
- Ziba thought he was more deserving than Mephibosheth.
- Ziba saw his chance to hurt Mephibosheth and promote himself, and he took it (Lies, slander).
- David heard Ziba's report and failed to consider whether it may be a false report.
  - He pronounced his ruling before hearing both sides of the story (speaking too soon).
  - He should not have blindly believed the report of one man without checking it out.

**Vs 28** Mephibosheth had grounds to file a formal complaint against David for the way he mishandled this situation with Ziba. Instead, he chose to forgive David and to be grateful that he is back.

- Mephibosheth was willing to accept whatever decision David made concerning him. He was grateful for David's kindness toward him up to now.
  - We ought to have the same attitude toward our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**Vs 29** David did not hold a grudge against Mephibosheth. He returned part of his possessions but could not return it all because of the words that he had spoken in haste. Things would never be as they were before.

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**“Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.” (Psalm 141:3)**