

Week beginning: 8th Feb 2009

Accepted

Welcome: If Mr Ben Evolent gave you a million quid what would you do with it? What if he asked you to mention his name every time you spent some of it – would you do that? Why? Why not?

Worship: Don't forget to worship in your cell meeting. It is through worship that we draw near to God. Play the clip that accompanied this cell material and, if you can, write down the words. (Do 2 lines each ... or something like that!)

Word:—‘So Mephibosheth ate at David’s table like one of the king’s sons. (2 Sam 9:11 NIV)

Teaching Slot: When God graciously offers us unconditional acceptance, forgiveness of sins, new life and a place in heaven we may initially feel unworthy but we *will* receive these gifts *if we accept them*. A reception even warmer and a banquet even grander than the one David gave Mephibosheth awaits those who embrace God’s gifts through trusting in Jesus Christ – not because we deserve it but because of God’s promise to those He accepts (Gal 3:29).

Read: - John 11:38-46, John 12:1-2 & John 12:9-11

Discuss:

1. Could Jesus have healed Lazarus before he died?
2. Why do you think He didn't? (Clue – John 11:40)
3. Come up with 10 words to describe how Lazarus felt (or looked!) at the dinner given in Jesus' honour at Bethany.
4. Do those words describe you?

Witness:

Each one of us is a Lazarus – raised to New Life and released into the freedom to live our New Life. But it's not enough just to *have* New Life because *it's the living of that New Life that brings glory to God*. People flocked to see Lazarus – they must have had a million questions to ask him about his life-giving, life-changing Master. Are they flocking to see you? Why not tell someone about your Saviour this week.