

Ziba the Unfaithful Servant

*(Based on 1 Samuel 20:42, 1 Samuel 31:2, 2
Samuel 9, 2 Samuel
4:4, 2 Samuel 16:1-4, 2 Samuel 19:25-30)*

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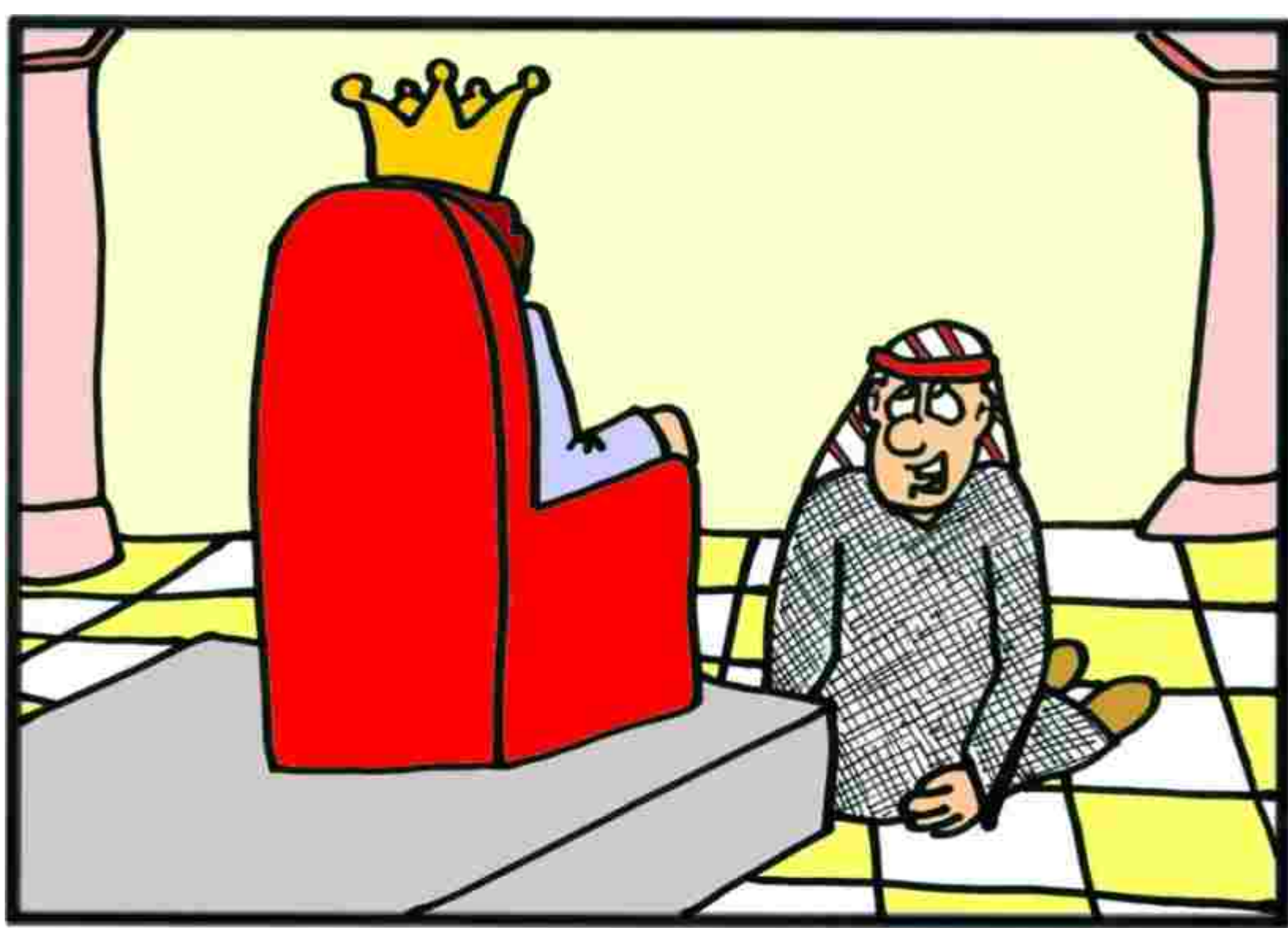
David remembered Jonathan and his promise that he would always be good to his family. Jonathan had been killed in a war. "I must keep my promise," thought David.



David sent for a man named Ziba. “Ziba, you were a servant of King Saul and Prince Jonathan’s family. Is there no one left alive from their family?”



“Oh yes there is,” answered Ziba. “Prince Jonathan had a son, but he's crippled. His nanny dropped him when he was five years old and both of his legs broke. His name is Mephibosheth.”



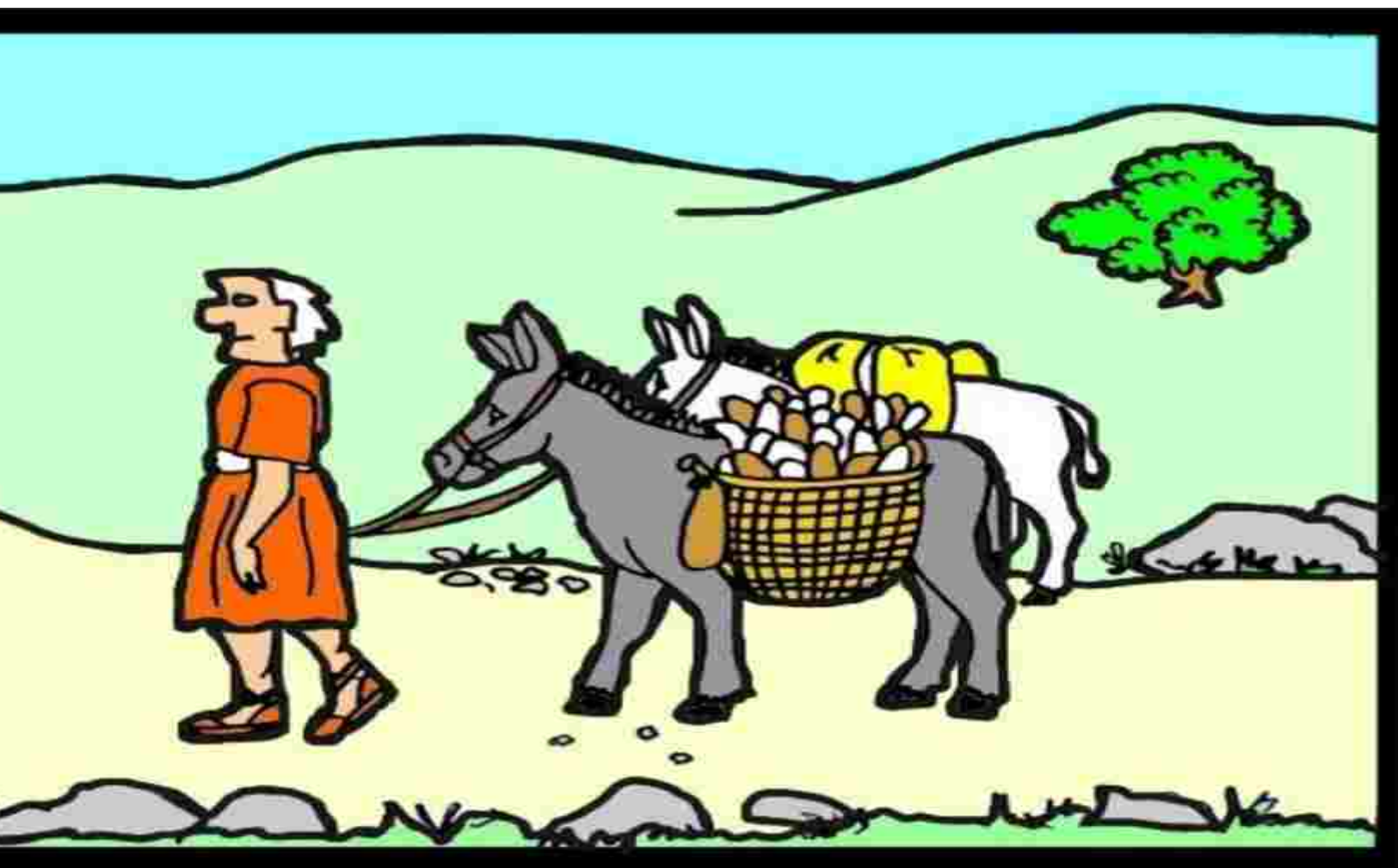
David sent men to bring Mephibosheth to his palace. “Mephibosheth, you don’t have to be afraid. I am giving you all the land that used to be owned by your grandpa King Saul and his family,” said King David.



“Ziba, I want you to serve Mephibosheth. I want you to plant crops and harvest them for Mephibosheth on his land,” commanded King David. “I promise that I will do as you have commanded,” answered Ziba.



Mephibosheth, I want you to be like one of my sons and eat your meals with us," said King David. So Mephibosheth came to live in Jerusalem.



When Prince Absalom led the revolt and King David had to
escape for his life, Mephibosheth asked Ziba to bring him a
donkey to ride, so he could join David, but Ziba
returned with the donkey. Instead Ziba loaded 2 donkeys
with bread, fruit and wine and he went to meet King David.



Where's Mephibosheth?" asked King David. Ziba brought him. "King David, Mephibosheth stayed here because he said that today the people of Israel would make HIM the new king."



...za, I am giving you everything that belonged
...hibosheth!" said King David. "I humbly ask that y
...uld keep on treating me good," answered Ziba.



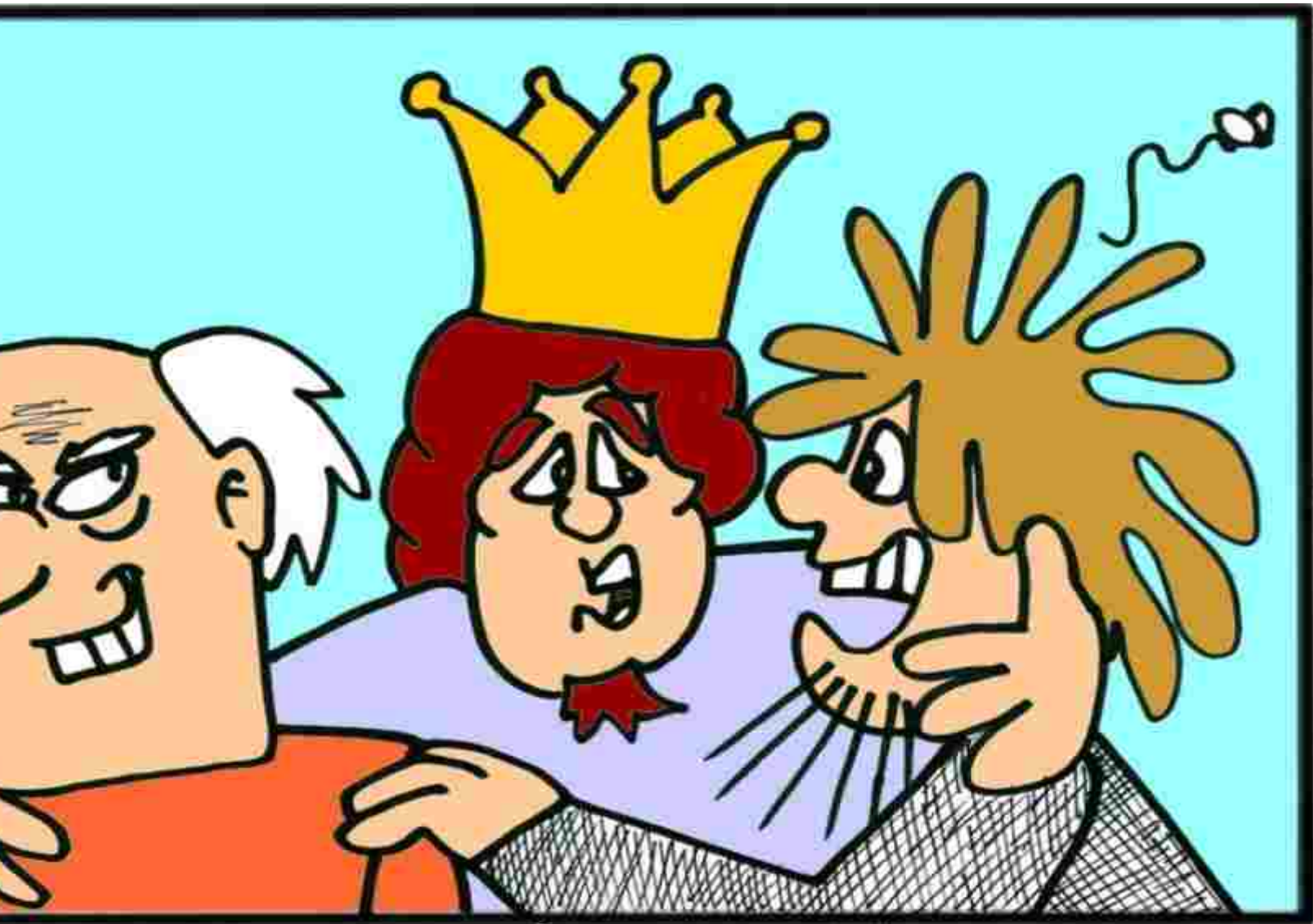
When the revolt was over and King David returned to Jerusalem, Mephibosheth came to meet him. He looked like a beggar. He had not changed his clothes, washed or shaved his head since the time David was away.



phibosheth, why didn't you come with me when I had
ve town?" asked King David.



Mephibosheth told how that Ziba had tricked him. Then King David told him what Ziba had said. "He said what I said, I said what?!!!!" Mephibosheth was very upset when he heard how his servant Ziba had lied about him.



Now you and Ziba will have to divide the land between
you," said King David. "Let him have it all. What do I care?"
"I'm just so glad you're alive!" said Mephibosheth.



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rd, help me to be like David who gave with
part of love and wasn't expecting anything
urn. I don't want to be like Ziba who ga
t expected special treatment and to
vantage of the weakness of others.