

Accepting the Disabled

A British factory worker and his wife were excited when – after many years of marriage – they discovered they were going to have their first child.

According to author Jill Briscoe, who told this true story, the man eagerly relayed the good news to his fellow workers. He told them God had answered his prayers. But instead of congratulating the man, his co-workers made fun of him for asking God for a child.

When the baby was born, he was diagnosed as having Down's syndrome. As the father made his way to work for the first time after the birth, he wondered how to face the other workers. "God, please give me wisdom," he prayed.

Just as he feared, some said mockingly, "So, God gave you this child!"

The new father stood for a long time, silently asking God for help. At last, he said, "I'm glad the Lord gave this child to me and not to you!"

As this man accepted his disabled son as God's gift to him, so David was pleased to show kindness to Saul's grandson who was "lame in his feet" (2 Samuel 9:3).

Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan and grandson of King Saul, was 5 years old when both his father and grandfather died at the Battle of Mount Gilboa. After their deaths, Mephibosheth's nurse took him and fled in panic. In her haste, the child fell, or was dropped while fleeing. After that, he was unable to walk.

King David valued Mephibosheth, and treated him like one of his own sons.

The greatest obstacle to being handicapped – or challenged, or disabled, or whatever label may be applied – is not the condition but the stigma society still associates with it. The truth is we are valuable because of who we are, not because of how we look or what we accomplish.



And that applies to all of us, the disabled and the temporarily able-bodied alike.

Thank God, the associates of Life Care and Century Park understand this truth, and they minister to our customers – patients, residents and their families – like the very important persons they are.

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well (Psalm 139:13-14 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter