



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

905 Clearfield Street * Morehead, KY 40351 * (606)776-7089 * www.gracemorehead.org

Oh What a TABLE

Message preached on Sunday Morning, November 3, 2024

Psalm 23:1-6

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

This whole passage is amazing...could teach on it constantly.

THE MAIN POINT? God's desire is NOT for us to live in the valley...but for us to live on the mountain-top...in the best.

WINTER MONTHS: The sheep would live at home...goodness of the shepherd's home.

SUMMER MONTHS (warmth): The shepherd would take the herd to the top of the mountain (a table that he prepared for them) to escape the heat and enjoy life in the cool weather.

Vs. 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies."

A lot of people like to talk about this table as being what we are getting ready to enjoy at the end of this month (Thanksgiving dinner).

HOWEVER: Sheep wouldn't even know what to do with that kind of table.

This is a MOUNTAIN TOP position provided by our shepherd.

UNDERSTAND: The shepherd goes up long before the sheep do and prepares the table (the land)...

- * Clears weeds and dangerous plants that would harm the sheep when they are feeding.
- * The shepherd gets familiar with the hiding places of the enemy...to eliminate the places, or just to understand where they would lie in wait.
- * He also makes sure the land is plentiful with food and water...provision.

Here are some things about this table (for the sheep):

- * It is a place to belong...connect.
All the sheep are there...along with the shepherd.
- * It is a place to heal.
The shepherd is watching over them...anointing them...giving them time to recover from the heat of the journey.
- * A place to grow.
Feeding on good stuff.

- * A place to increase.
Sheep reproduce! They do what sheep do.
- * A place to refresh.
Cool and fresh weather...while the world is melting.
- * A place of security.
Not worried about the enemy.
- * A place of safety.
- * A place of abundant supply.
- * **MOST IMPORTANT:** A place of intimacy with the shepherd.

“In the presence of mine enemies”

ONE THING about Psalm 23 is that we get frustrated about the mention of the valley of the shadow of death...in the presence of our enemies...seems intimidating!

IMPORTANT: It is clear that this is a place that your enemies can see you, where you are not out of sight, but you ARE OUT OF REACH.

A couple things about your enemies in verse 4:

- 1.) They are near you...so they will be heard.
They will talk to you.
 - * “You can’t do it!”
 - * “You need to do it this way!”
 - * “There is better stuff over here!”

UNDERSTAND: The enemy wants you to remove yourself from this table, so he can devour you.
John 10:10 – ***“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”***
He can’t touch you unless he can talk you into moving into his system.

- 2.) They are only intended to watch you prosper.
Psalm 31:19 – “How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you. You lavish it on those who come to you for protection, ***“blessing them before the watching world.”***”

THEREFORE: Our main job is to learn to ignore those voices and stay in your place.

YOU SAY: “Well, Pastor Thad, that is nice, but how do you ignore? That sounds easier said than done!”

Psalm 121:1-4

- 1 ***I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.***
- 2 My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.
- 4 Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

Lift your eyes! Keep your eyes on Him.

ILLUSTRATION: The eagle has an extra eyelid that serves couple purposes...but it is an extra protection for their eyes. One of the purposes is that when it is being bothered by another bird, it will fly directly into the sun...eventually, the other bird will have to turn and retreat.

IN OTHER WORDS: When the pesky pests start bothering the eagle...he LIFTS HIS EYES to the sun!

BELOVED: We are told to do the same thing...lift up our eyes to the table...to the shepherd.

SOMETHING THE LORD SHOWED ME: The sheep that becomes overly familiar with the table that has been prepared for them, by their Shepherd. They’ve walked through the valley so many times and nothing has happened...they’ve eaten at the table and enjoyed what has been prepared...

UNDERSTAND: It would be easy to take it for granted...to start looking for short cuts...other than the ROD (Word) and Staff (Holy Spirit) to lead you...an easy way...a quick way.

We get lazy with the Word and Holy Spirit, with obeying!

BELOVED: Don’t take it for granted. Never take it lightly, never let your awe diminish.

THEREFORE: We would find ourselves in problems that we were NEVER intended to suffer.

Stay focused on the shepherd. Look up!

Set Your Focus on the Table

We know that the Old Testament is the shadow of the New...so I believe it is telling us something else! There are a few tables that I want us to check out in the New Covenant.

Keep in mind the importance of the table:

- * It is a place to belong...connect.
- * It is a place to heal.
- * A place to grow.
- * A place to increase.
- * A place to refresh.
- * A place of security.
- * A place of safety.
- * A place of abundant supply.
- * **MOST IMPORTANT:** A place of intimacy with the shepherd.

1.) The table at Mary and Martha's.

Luke 10:38:42

- 38 Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.
- 39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.
- 40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.
NOTE: She was preparing a big dinner (NLT).
- 41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:
- 42 **But one thing is needful:** and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

One thing is necessary: Come to the table and feed on the Word.
Living bread. Sweet bread!

REMEMBER: Mannah! Today's Word is not sufficient for tomorrow!

QUESTION: Was what Martha was doing a bad thing?

ANSWER: Nope! It was good.

HOWEVER: If the enemy can't get you to do wrong things...he can get you do get over extended doing good things. Busyness...fatigue!

BELOVED: It is when you get in His Word...and get that Word in you...that is where you find your healing, growth, increase, refreshing, security, abundant supply, AND intimacy.

2.) Table at the banquet.

Luke 14:16-24

- 16 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade (INVITED) many:
- 17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, **Come; for all things are now ready.**
- 18 And they all with **one consent began to make excuse.** The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.
- 19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.
- 20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

- 21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. ***Then the master of the house being angry*** said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.
- 22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.
- 23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.
- 24 For I say unto you, ***That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.***

John 4:34 – “Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.”

BELOVED: Understand there is an invite for you to come and enjoy God’s food...which is to do the will of Him. To do His work.

My question is...what is your excuse for not doing what God has told you to do.

NOTICE: Two of the excuses had to do with finances or material goods.

NOTICE: One has to do with their spouse. My spouse said I couldn’t!

Vs. 24 – “None of those men which were invited shall taste of my supper.”

All those things are available to you...at His table...but we allow excuses to keep us from enjoying.

3.) The communion table!

1 Corinthians 11:23-30

- 23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:
- 24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.
- 25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.
- 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.
- 27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.
- 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.
- 29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.
- 30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

BELOVED: We have a covenant with Almighty God...our Shepherd!
In that covenant...all things were supplied!

Don’t forget this table!
Do it in remembrance of this covenant.

Conclusion

(going back to Psalm 23:5)

When you are at His table...He will feast with you and bless you...and He will make the enemy watch.