

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE KING

PART 8 THE SHEPHERD PSALM 2020

Psalm 23:5 **SLIDE**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

EXTREME CONTRAST

This verse shows **extreme contrast** of positive blessing against negative curses – of pure light against the sinister blackness.

It shows: THE KING'S LAVISH TABLE CONTRASTED WITH OUR SINISTER ENEMIES.
THE TWO ARE JUXTAPOSED IN EXTREME & GLORIOUS CONTRAST.

WHAT IT ALSO TELLS US IS: God's answer to the constant attack of our enemies is for us to come and dine with him at His glorious table.

It seems quite a strange way of dealing with our enemies.

You see God just doesn't take us out of our enemies' camp ... He plonks a lavish table of blessing in the midst of it and now calls us to come in and enjoy His feast, while our enemies are still around.

Can you see ... nothing gets your enemy madder than you ignoring his snapping and snarling ... threatening and condemning ... criticising and undermining attack ... as you calmly go and feast with the King, who has already defeated him.

OUTRAGIOUS PROVISION

HERE WE ARE TAKEN FROM ABSOLUTE DEFEAT TO EXALTED TRIUMPH
BY THE GRACE OF GOD ... & THERE AIN'T NO NEUTRAL GROUND.

Just like Joseph was taken from slavery and prison, and in one day was made the Prime Minister of all Egypt. His jailers and slave-masters then had to bow to him.

THIS IS WHAT GOD IS SAYING HERE.

If you've been praying, 'Lord, take me out of this negative situation ... if you've been battling your enemies ... you're missing the point.

GOD HAS PROVIDED SOMETHING GLORIOUSLY POSITIVE FOR YOU TO COME INTO ...

We should pray, 'God, please bring me into everything you have provided'.

GOD HAS NOT PROVIDED A WAY FOR YOU TO OVERCOME YOUR ENEMIES.

SLIDE GOD HAS PROVIDED A PLACE FOR YOU - WHERE HE HAS OVERCOME.

(READ PSALM 91)

John 16:33

*These things I have spoken to you, that **in Me** you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, **I have overcome the world.***

Overcome = [nenikēka](#) to conquer, be victorious, overcome, prevail. From **nike**; to subdue.

'But', you say, 'Surely I have to get rid of the negative thing ... the sin ... the oppression before I can come into the positive'.

NO!!! YOU DON'T!

GOD'S WAY OF DEALING WITH YOUR NEGATIVES IS TO BRING YOU INTO HIS POSITIVES ... HIS GRACE & BLESSING IN TIME OF NEED – HIS GRACE & BLESSINGS THAT ARE IN SALVATION ...

HE HASN'T JUST TAKEN AWAY OUR SINS ... **HE'S GIVEN US HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

HE HASN'T JUST CANCELLED OUR DEBT ... **HE'S GIVEN US THE RICHES OF HIS GLORY.**

HERE AT HIS TABLE HE GIVES - Beauty for Ashes ... Joy for Mourning ... Praise for Heaviness. (Isaiah 61:3)

HERE, WE'RE **NO LONGER FIGHTING** Satan, **WE'RE FEASTING** WITH THE KING.

HERE, WE ARE NO LONGER **TRYING TO OVERCOME SIN,** WE ARE **PARTAKING OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS** - while sin is still around about us ...

HERE, WE'RE NOT TRYING TO GET HEALED OF DEPRESSION AND SORROW ... WE ARE REJOICING IN HIS LIGHT.

YOU MAY STILL BE ABLE TO SEE YOUR ENEMIES OR HEAR THEIR DISTANT CRIES BUT THE KING SAYS, 'YOU'RE SAFE ... THEY CAN'T HURT YOU HERE'.

THIS IS AN AMAZINGLY VICTORIOUS PLACE

Everything that happens after this table is a result of experiencing it -

THE ANOINTING OIL / THE OVERFLOWING CUP / THE PURSUING GOODNESS AND KINDNESS / THE HOUSE OF THE LORD - THESE ARE ALL CONSEQUENCES OF FEASTING HERE.

THIS TABLE ALSO ESTABLISHES YOU INTO A PERMANENT SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE OF BLESSING FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE ...

*Once you begin to experience this table ... you will never look back at the shadows from which you came – you will begin to walk forward into a future overflowing with God’s goodness and kindness ... **all the days of your life.***

LOOK AT THE PHRASE ‘ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE’ IN VERSE 6

Psalm 23:6 NASB SLIDE

Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever [for the length of days].

LET ME PARAPHRASE IT LIKE THIS ... **SLIDE X 2**

- *You prepare a table before me **ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE.***
- *You anoint my head with oil **ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE.***
- *My cup runs over **ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE.***
- *Goodness and mercy shall follow me **ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE.***
- *I will dwell in the house of the LORD **ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE.***

FEASTING / FELLOWSHIP / ANOINTING / ABUNDANCE / GOODNESS & KINDNESS ... **ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE.**

WHAT IS SO AMAZING ABOUT THIS TABLE?

This Place is where you find yourself ...
And you become who you are ...

The truth is, as new creation people, **we don’t automatically understand who we are.** *For some of us it’s taken quite a while to see we’re no longer unsaved goats, but we have a new sheep nature.*

This is a great revelation.

However,

HERE WE ARE CALLED TO SEE OURSELVES AS MORE THAN SHEEP.

Even though we will always have that gentle and trusting SHEEP nature ...

Here, the Lord says, *'You are far more than that, and I am calling you to this new place of mature fellowship which has been prepared for my joint heirs'*

NOTICE THAT FROM THIS VERSE ON, THIS PSALM ISN'T WRITTEN FOR SHEEP -

- WE ARE NO LONGER FEEDING IN GREEN PASTURES
WE ARE FEASTING AT HIS TABLE
- WE ARE NO LONGER LAPPING BESIDE STILL WATERS
WE ARE DRINKING FROM AN OVERFLOWING CUP AT HIS TABLE

SLIDE SHEEP DON'T SIT AT TABLES.

SHEEP DON'T DRINK FROM CUPS AND ...

SLIDE SHEEP DON'T DWELL IN HOUSES ...

FROM NOW ON IN THIS PSALM ...

THE LORD STARTS TO RELATE TO US AS HIS SONS & DAUGHTERS!

He starts to relate to us as the Heirs of His kingdom.

He says,

'You were always meant to be here at this table with Me ...

Not only because you have the robe of righteousness,

But because you also have ...

A new nature which belongs at this table.'

HE SAYS, YOU WERE BORN-AGAIN TO BE AT THIS TABLE.

You're not meant for the valley ... lost in the shadows ...

You have been born again to be alive at the table, feasting with Me.

You belong in this place!

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO COME OUT FROM THE SHADOWS & BE WHO YOU ARE.

Galatians 4:7 SLIDE

You are no longer a slave but a son; and if a son, also an heir of God through Christ. (Son = huioi)

YOU ARE THE HEIR OF A PRICELESS FORTUNE ... CHOSEN ... PRIVILEGED ...

YOU ARE ROYALTY.

1 Peter 2:9 Berean Literal Bible SLIDE

... You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of the One having called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.

THE PROBLEM IS:

We've been so entrenched in these shadows in Adam for so long, we think the thoughts of the shadows, and shadow people speak shadow words to us, and our mind doubts what our spirit knows ...

HOWEVER, OUR SPIRIT SAYS ... 'YES, AMEN WE DON'T BELONG HERE ANYMORE.'

LISTEN TO THAT STILL SMALL VOICE INSIDE ... YOUR SPIRIT SPEAKS TO YOU ...

God is not telling you to get out of the shadows anymore. God is calling you to come to his banqueting table and feast with Him.

God doesn't even mention your past anymore. He reveals your New Creation self and tells you, *'This is your home. Here you will begin to experience everything I've already brought you into and, indeed, who you actually are'.*

WHO IS AT THE TABLE?

Last week I heard that people wanted to know more about what is on this table ... in fact it was a topic of discussion at the Ladies Group last Monday.

I felt God speak to my heart and say, *'Before you ask WHAT'S ON the table ... You need to ask WHO'S AT THE TABLE!'*

WHAT'S ON THE TABLE IS AN EXPRESSION OF THE PERSON WHO INVITED YOU TO THEIR TABLE.

SO, WHO IS AT THIS TABLE?

THE RISEN KING IS AT THE TABLE.

HERE IN THIS FELLOWSHIP-FEAST, THE RISEN KING IS REVEALED

SLIDE The Lord now says, *'You have known me as your Saviour. You have also known me as your Shepherd. But now I want you to know me as the risen King. SO I HAVE INVITED YOU TO JOIN ME FOR DINNER IN MY HOUSE ...*

THIS IS THE TABLE OF THE RISEN KING. AND TO DINE HERE MEANS THE KING IS SHARING WITH US NOT ONLY WHAT HE'S GOT, BUT **WHO HE IS.**

The Shepherd now starts to change into the glorious King and here in the valley-world we start to experience **His risen glory ...**

THE THREE PSALMS

JUST AS BEFORE PSALM 23, *Psalm 22 SPEAKS ABOUT THE SUFFERING SAVIOUR ON THE CROSS,*
SO, AFTER PSALM 23, Psalm 24 is about the RISEN KING –

Psalm 23:7 **SLIDE**

Lift up your heads, O you gates! ... And the King of Glory shall come in. ⁸Who is this King of Glory? ... The Lord, mighty in battle.

SO, WHAT IS ON THE TABLE?

Here at this table, and on this table, there is something so magnificent it will keep your attention, your focus and appetite to the end of your days and into eternity ...

IT IS THE TASTE OF HEAVEN ON THE EARTH

NOBODY COULD TASTE ANYTHING GREATER ... MORE PLEASING ... MORE APPETISING ... MORE DELICIOUS ... MORE DELECTABLE.

BUT WHAT IS IT?

IT IS HIS GOODNESS

THE GOODNESS OF GOD IS HIS VIRTUE FROM WHICH ALL OTHER EXPRESSIONS COME.

Exodus 33:19 **SLIDE**

... I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you ...

Psalm 34:8 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*Taste and see that the LORD is **good**; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!*

TASTE & SEE THAT THE LORD IS WHAT?

NOT RIGHTEOUS ... NOT HOLY ... NOT EVEN GRACIOUS ... BUT 'GOOD'.

THIS WORD 'GOOD' IS MORE THAN TO BE 'NICE' OR 'MORAL' OR 'NOT BAD'.

God's goodness is His virtue – His substance out of which His mercy flows.
It will sustain you ... change you forever.

LOOK AT WHAT FOLLOWS US AFTER WE HAVE BEEN AT HIS TABLE?

Psalm 23:6 NASB SLIDE

*Surely **goodness** and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life ...*

THE MAIN COURSE IS THE GOODNESS OF GOD & HIS LOVING KINDNESS.

The CHARACTER OF GOD NOW overflows from us after we have dined in close fellowship with Him, His goodness and His loving kindness at His table.

YOU CANNOT DINE AT HIS TABLE AND BE THE SAME!

SAY GOODBYE TO THE LIFE YOU KNEW BEFORE! YOUR LIFE IS TRANSFORMED FOREVER ...

YOU SAY, 'HOW DO I GET THERE?' - YOU'RE ALREADY THERE!
POSITIONALLY YOU ARE ALREADY SEATED WITH CHRIST,
BUT THIS IS OUR SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE OF WHERE WE ARE
POSITIONALLY ...