

“Table Of Grace And Extravagance” (Psalm 23)

January 31, 2016

Psalm 23: a most famous and beloved Psalm

God is a *good* shepherd because He:

1. “Makes me lie down in green pastures” (verse 2a). Yahweh cares and provides.
2. “Leads me beside quiet waters” (verse 2b). The Hebrew word for “quiet” (“menuchah”) emphasizes rest and security.
3. “Refreshes my soul / life” (verse 3a)
4. “Guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake” (verse 3b)
5. He is “with me” in the darkest valley (verse 4)
6. He is the goal of my life (verse 6)

Psalm 23 is about (1) David, (2) Jesus and (3) us.

Psalm 23:5

*“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.”*

*“You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies.
You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing” [The Message].*

1. Yahweh sets the table at great cost to Himself. Yahweh sets the table to “attach” us to him.
2. Yahweh sets the table in the “presence of my enemies.”
“Hospitality in the ancient Near East required more than providing a meal. The host was also responsible for protecting his guest—see Genesis 19:8 (FaithLife Study Bible).
3. It is a feast (“oil” and the overflowing “cup”). See 2 Kings 6:8-23.

The Lord's Supper

1. Jesus welcomes sinners to His meal (Luke 15:2)
2. It is a rich feast of "spiritual blessings" (Ephesians 1:3ff)

Digging Deeper (For Further Study)

1. What do you think of when you hear the word "feast"?
2. What is the best meal / feast you have ever experienced?
3. Are meals typically "life-giving" experiences for you? Why or why not?
4. Read Psalm 23 again. What are your lingering questions and /or observations about this passage?
5. What was helpful about this morning's message?
6. What was not helpful or confusing about the message?
7. Read the following passages on the theme of "feast" or "meal": Luke 13:22-29; Luke 14:15-24; Luke 15:11-32; Revelation 19:1-9. What do these passages teach us?
8. Do you agree that the Lord's Supper is a "feast"? Why or why not?
9. Do you experience Jesus like a gracious and extravagant host / king in your life? Why or why not?
10. What can we do to both experience and extend the hospitality of Jesus towards others?