

WHERE IS GOD WHEN I HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO GIVE?

God, Who? — Part 7

“You prepare a banquet for me in front of my enemies.” Psalm 23:5a (GW/NCV)

What Kind of Banquet is this?

- God is the **HOST** “You”
- This is **WELL PLANNED** “Prepare”
- I am the **GUEST OF HONOR** “For me”
- It’s in **PUBLIC** “In front of”
- The banquet happens even while you are facing **DIFFICULT** times. “my enemies”

Who Are My Enemies?

1. The **WORLD**

Jesus “In this world, you will have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration, but take heart . . . because I have overcome the world.” John 16:33b (AMP)

“15 Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 16 For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. 17 And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.” 1 John 2:15-17 (NLT)

2. **SATAN**

“Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, who is your great enemy.” 1 Peter 5:8 (TLB)

“Our fight is not really against people on earth . . . but against the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly world.” Ephesians 6:12 (NCV)

3. My **OLD** nature

“...but there is something else deep within me, in my lower nature, that is at war with my mind and wins the fight and makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. In my mind I want to be God’s willing servant, but instead I find myself still enslaved to sin. So, you see how it is: my new life tells me to do right, but the old nature that is still inside me loves to sin...” Romans 7:23 -25 (TLB)

What Does the Banquet Symbolize?

1. God wants **COMMUNITY** with me.

“You welcome us with open arms when we run for cover to you. Let the party last all night! Stand guard over our celebration.” Psalm 5:11 (MSG)

“God is gently calling you from the jaws of distress to an open place of freedom where he has set your table full of the best food!” Job 36:16 (NCV)

2. God wants to bless me to show the world His **GOODNESS**.

“Your goodness is so great! You have stored up great blessings for those who honor you. You have done so much for those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world.” Psalm 31:19 (NLT)

What’s on the Menu?

Everything God has **PROMISED** in the Bible.

“The promises of your Word taste sweet to me. They taste sweeter than honey in my mouth.” Psalm 119:103 (NLT)

“Learn to savor how good the Lord is!” Psalm 34:8 (NAB)

“How precious, O God, is your constant love! We find protection under the shadow of your wings. We feast on the abundant food you provide; you let us drink from the river of your goodness. You are the source of all life! And because of your light, we see the light!” Psalm 36:7-9 (TEV)

“The Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of the finest food for all peoples, a banquet of the best of meats and finest wines. And on this mountain, God will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, and the sheet that covers all nations. He will swallow up death forever! The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; and he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. And in that day, they will say, ‘Surely this is our God! We trusted in him, and he saved us! Yes, this is the Lord, we trusted in him! So, let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation!’” Isaiah 25:6-9 (NIV)