

Psalm 23:5

Victory!

Image Church // The Good Shepherd Week 5

MPS: God provides and protects giving us more than we need in Him.

Introduction

Well good morning Image Family, I hope you are doing well!

Watch Parties!

- imageATL.com/watchparty
- **Prayer time**

I am going to read through all of **Psalm 23**, we're going to do that each week because I want it to become ingrained in you...

- And then we will look at **verse 3...** *Ok let's read through Psalm 23 together...*

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd;
I have what I need.

2 He lets me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside quiet waters.

3 He renews my life;
he leads me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

4 Even when I go through the darkest valley,
I fear no danger,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

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

6 Only goodness and faithful love will pursue me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
as long as I live.

Ok, let's dive into verse 5:

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

Ok so let's take a look at this verse... One of the things you notice right off the bat is that the author **transitions from the shepherding imagery**, to now a posture of thanksgiving in light of the reality of the good shepherd...

IOW: He uses shepherding imagery to describe the goodness of God and now he is moving into a posture of thanksgiving for who God is and all that He provides...

There are 2 main things that I want you to see here...

First:

1. God gives us provision and protection in the presence of opposition

We see **provision** in the table that is set...

We see **protection** in that this table is prepared in the presence of enemies...

There does seem to be a connection here to the previous verse in a sense that there was a dark valley which inevitably involves some sort of opposition, and now what we see is a victorious outcome...

One where there is incredible provision and one where there is incredible protection...

And it's even more than that- it's like a taunting of the opposition...

Example: not just scoring a TD, it's the celebration dance in the endzone!

It's like you have no power over me, you can't stop me, you can hurt me, I am untouchable... So, I am going to sit here and eat my food

right in front of you. I am going to enjoy something right here in front of you, you don't phase me...

Pretty cool picture here of God's **provision** and **protection** and even how outrageous it is!

But here's something I don't want you to miss in all this...

David who's writing this... **what's required of him here?? What does he have to do to receive this provision and protection???**

Nothing... God is the one that does all of the work, all David does is receive what's been accomplished for Him...

What we see in this is **a picture of the gospel**... See through the line of David would come Jesus, and there would be a time where Jesus sits down at a table that was prepared in the presence of the enemy...

And it would be at the **Last Supper** where he would sit face to face with His disciples, one of which betray Him, Judas...

And He would hold up the bread, and break it and saying: *this is my body that was given for you*, take and eat... Then He would take the cup and say, *this is my blood that is poured out for you*, take and drink...

And not long after that Jesus, would extend the greatest amount of provision and protection, by go to the cross...

Explain the implications:

- Sin
- Separation
- God's wrath
- Grace and Mercy- Jesus' life, death, resurrection!
- God's family

The provision and the protection extended to us at God's table would come at the full expense of Jesus...

What this means family, ***is that there is victory that comes through the person and work of Jesus!!!***

I have shared this story before, but it is so applicable with what we're talking about today...

A man by the name of Dr. Barnhouse who was a pastor, theologian, radio pioneer, and writer in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from 1927 to 1960...

His wife died when his kids were young, and He was looking for a way to explain it to his children... driving down the road sees a Mac Truck and says:

Children, would you rather be run over by a truck, or by its shadow?" The children said, "Well, of course Dad, we'd much rather be run over by the shadow! That can't hurt us at all."
Dr. Barnhouse said, "Did you know that two thousand years ago the truck of death ran over the Lord Jesus in order that only its shadow might run over us?"

Christian, no matter what you're going through this is not the end!! It is only a shadow...

Take heart!! I know that we are waiting right now, and I know it is hard... We have all kinds of chaos, confusion and evil and turmoil...

You have COVID going on, you have the **racial tensions** in our nation, and the **racial injustice** that's happening, you have the **election** and all the **political** mess that's going on...

- Love ones dying...
- Abuse, racism...
- Marriages struggling...
- Depression, anxiety, loneliness...

Hang on!!! Hang on!!

What Jesus did was the start... **We still live in the midst of brokenness**, brokenness that we can't fix, brokenness that comes out in all kinds of ways... **Hang on!!**

Jesus says that He will return for His bride the church and He will claim her, and there will be an **incredible feast** with a seat for each of those that have trusted in the person and work of Jesus!!

Do not loose heart there will be victory- but right now we wait... And we hold onto things like this- **that God prepares are table for us and He protects us...**

And there will be times when this is true in this life... When you come up against sin or the effects of sin, and opposition to the gospel:

- **Romans 8:31(b):** If God is for us, who can be against us?
- **2 Corinthians 12:9:** "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness."
- And God brings victory in the midst of opposition...

But regardless of what happens in this life, know that you can have the confidence that this is most certainly true for the next!

- **Romans 8:37-39** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Which leads me to the second thing I want you to see:

2. God gives us more than what we need

V. 5(d): David says my cup overflows.

David is radiating with thanksgiving here- and He's saying my cup isn't just full it's overflowing!!

Example: Let's say that I had a really, really expensive bottle of wine...

- *I know some of our Southern Baptist folks just passed out*
 - *You, just pretend it's a really expensive bottle of coke...*
- Good news is, I just got the attention of all our former **Methodist** and **Catholic** people- *first time you guys have locked in...*
- Listen, calm down, **this is just an illustration** so go with me here or just a minuet... *And it is what David would have been drinking...*

So, say I had this really, really expensive bottle of wine, let's make it outrageous- **\$1 million...**

And you came over, and I asked you if you wanted a glass and you said **yes**- it's **\$1 million** bottle!!...

And so, I get a wine glass, the kind that are shaped kind of funny- and I give it to you and I start pouring...

- And I get almost to the top of the little funny looking glass and I just keep on pouring...
 - Runs over the glass on to the floor and I just keep pouring- and at first, you're **shocked** and then it's just **funny** and then you shift to amazement at the fact that this is such an expensive product and yet it doesn't matter...

You're blown away by the **radical nature** of what just happened...

- And then to top it off I'm like there's more where that came from- *I am going to send you home with 100 bottles and when you run out you can come get more!!!*
- And I am not just going to give you that, **I am going to give you and unlimited supply of food...**
- And if there's anything else you need just let me know and I will take care of it for you...

You would be like WHAT?!?!?! And you would be consumed by this overwhelming sense of amazement and awe and- and thinking- ***I am set!!*** Leaving feeling of ***wow- there is an abundance of resources that were just given to me that changes everything!***

This is the ***imagery*** that we get here... That David is experiencing an ***abundance*** and a ***fulfilment, a satisfaction, a contentment...***

But is isn't in what he has but it's in who has Him! It's not about tangible positions, ***it's about the tangible presence of God!*** Who is the one that provides and protects!

He understands that everything he need's is found in God...

Psalm 16:5-6 would say it like this:

5 Lord, you are my portion
and my cup of blessing;
you hold my future.

6 The boundary lines have fallen for me
in pleasant places;
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

David that abundance in this life doesn't come from ***stuff*** it comes from the ***sovereign God...***

It's through Christ that we have access to more than we need,

- Unconditional love
- Forgiveness
- Identity
- Comfort
- Confidence
- Joy
- Hope

The love of God through Christ. In Christ we have more than we need and more than we can fathom...

- There is no sin to great
- There is no shame to strong

- There is no life too far gone, or someone to down and out...

Apply:

- Some of you need to look to Jesus for salvation- eternal protection...
- Some of you need to remember that the battle is already won...
- And that there is a wedding feast that's being prepared!!

Some of you need to taste and see the goodness of God... You need to look to Jesus, feast on Him!

- **Example:** I am reading through **Matthew** right now...
- Some of you need to begin walking in the things of Jesus...

Conclusion [VAMP]

Some of you have been concerned with the things of God, but not the Son of God, and you wonder why you don't feel the impact of the ***provision*** and ***protection*** in your life.

For some of you your not experiencing an overflowing cup, because right now you're not walking with Jesus.

1. God gives us provision and protection in the presence of opposition

2. God gives us more than what we need

God is the one that does all of the work when it comes to our provision and protection, giving us more than we need in Him.

Pray...