

**WOMEN IN THE WORD
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH**

The 23rd Psalm by Juanita Ryan

Lesson 6: The God Who Feeds Us

October 25, 2022

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.”

Ross commentary:

v.5 Changes from pasture to banquet hall

From shepherd to host

Provisions of host to honored guest

Prepare a table= lay out food and drink

Table—metonymy of subject

Actual food—Lord’s provision of all good gifts

Eating in the midst of enemies

Picture of God’s provision, safety and security

Adam Clarke: “A magnificent banquet is provided by a most liberal and benevolent host; who has not only the bounty to feed me, but power to protect me; and, though surrounded by enemies, I sit down to this table with confidence, knowing that I shall feast in perfect security.”

MacLaren: “This is the condition of God’s servant—always conflict, but always a spread table.”

Spurgeon: “...Nothing is hurried, there is no confusion, no disturbance, the enemy is at the door and yet God prepares a table, and the Christian sits down and eats as if everything were in perfect peace.”

Sheep approaching high country here in verse 5

Known as alplands, tablelands

Referred to as mesa=Spanish word for table

Early season—advance survey trips
Takes salt and minerals
Decide where they camp, best beds, use light or heavy
Check for poisonous weeds
Ex. white cammas, beautiful but deadly
Tiring, tedious work, but part of preparing the table

Christian parallel—try everything
Might be dangerous or destructive

Ex. Peter—Luke 22:31-32
The Lord goes before us—praying for us

Shepherd looks for sign of predators

Our Savior knows all satan's tricks
1 Pet. 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

Cougars are cunning and skillful, they pick off the distant, roamers, wandering sheep.
Christian must stay close to the Shepherd.

Shepherd—clears water holes, springs, etc.

Christian—Christ goes before us
He was tempted in all ways
Knows our sufferings, experienced our sorrows
Compassion and care in every situation
If we rest in Him, our lives will be calm, confident.

But we still have valleys along with the mountaintops.
Personal relationship is the best and safest place to be.

What great personal cost for Christ to prepare the table for His own.

Deepest demonstration of true love
Chose to descend and live among humans
Laid aside His splendor, position
Ridiculed, rejected, falsely accused
Ultimate cost for selfish men

Isaiah 55

Tony Evans

v.1-5 Having laid out every blessing prepared for God's people

v.1 invite Israel—without cost, a powerful Old Testament affirmation of God's free gift of grace.

v.2 wasted time, things that won't satisfy

v.3 kingdom age—God's people

v.4 Jesus, King of Israel

v. 5 ruler over all—kingdom reign

Matthew Henry v.1-5

All welcome, those who thirst

Free grace, enough for all

Come---Rev.22:17

Pleasure in the world—no comfort or contentment

“let the disappointments we meet with in the world, help to drive us to Christ, and to seek for satisfaction in Him only.”

Messiah—all purchased by Him, promised in Him

Obey and follow Him

Christ will be glorified!

Evans:

v.6 invitation gracious, urgency

v.7 wicked warned, return to the Lord

v.8-9 "If we're honest, grace does not make sense to us because it does not reflect how people treat one another on earth. But God's perspective is not our perspective. That's why we need a divine translator. We need the Holy Spirit to enable us to have a heavenly perspective; we need the "mind of Christ".

1Cor. 2:16 "For 'who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?' But we have the mind of Christ."

v.10-11 these verses offer rich encouragement regarding the power of God's Word.

v.10 rain falls, waters the earth, plants grow

v.11 His Word works same, does not return empty
has power, purpose, can be trusted

v.12-13 greatness of God's salvation and grace will have tremendous effects
thorn and brier will be replaced Gen.3:17-18

Matthew Henry vv.6-13

Offer of pardon and peace

His word calls

The door will shut one day

God's thoughts and men's thoughts vastly differ

When God forgives, He remembers it NO more

The Jews shall come to their own land; represent blessings promised

Gospel grace brings change in men

"Delivered from the wrath to come, the converted sinner finds peace in his conscience; and love constrains him to devote himself to the service of his Redeemer."

Spread the gospel

Spurgeon on v.8-9; “You may conclude that it is not intended that you should understand the infinite, for you are told that His thoughts and ways are far above you; but you are required to seek Him while He may be found, and call upon Him while He is near.”

Jehovah-Nissi: The Lord Is My Banner

Exodus 17 Moses and children of Israel--enemies Amalekites
v.12-13 Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, down Amalek prevailed
Aaron and Hur supported his hands

Joshua won the battle, defeated the Amalekites
v.15 says “And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-Lord-Is-My-Banner.”
In Hebrew, that is Jehovah-Nissi.

Next week, Nov. 1 lesson 7 The God Who Heals Us