

# Psalm 23

*You have prepared a table for me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.*

Week 5

vs. 5

## Outline Week 4

We can lead a life worth living because, God, our Good Shepherd, prepares a table for us, hosting us at His feast!

### **I. God's table provides *fuel* for our *bodies* to enable us in our physical journey through life.**

- A. In the Garden of Eden, God prepared creation to feed humanity. See Gen. 1,2
- B. God fed the Israelites manna and quail in the desert.
- C. God fed Elijah, "lest the journey be too long for you."

### **II. In the Parable of the Wedding Feast, God's table provides *fellowship* for our *minds* to help us in our emotional journey. See Mt. 22; Lk. 14**

- A. Some refused the King's invitation
  - 1. Some chose to ignore the invitation.
  - 2. Some chose to attend to business.
  - 3. Some chose to pursue pleasure instead.
  - 4. So God invited the poor, lame, and those outside of town.
- B. God invites us to His Eucharist. Do we accept or refuse?
- C. Who or what are *our* enemies?

### **III. In the Upper Room, on the night before He died, Jesus prepared a table for all mankind, the Eucharistic Feast, in which God provides *food* for our *souls* to aid us in our faith journey.**

- A. Just as God gave His people manna to sustain their physical bodies, He gives us the Bread of Life to sustain our souls when Jesus said: "*This is my body.*" See John 6
- B. The Bread of the Eucharist was more costly than we can imagine, but God prepared it for us before time began so that our souls can be fed.

### **IV. After the resurrection, Jesus prepared breakfast on the beach to give His friends both food and fellowship, and to direct our *focus* for the successful *completion* of our journey. Jn. 21**

- A. Our focus should be two-fold.
  - 1. Love the Lord. ("*Do you love me more than these?*")
  - 2. Serve the Lord and each other. ("*Tend my sheep.*")
- B. "...*my cup runs over.*" How we see our "cup" (our lives) is often a matter of focus; is it half empty or half full?
- C. "...he anoints my head with oil..." We need to touch and be touched by God, so
  - 1. He touches us in the sacraments, creation, the kindness and love of each other
  - 2. These should therefore be our focus.

I FEAR TOO OFTEN CHRISTIANS THINK OF “RELIGION” AS  
A DIET. WE ARE ASKED TO GIVE UP THIS OR THAT. BUT  
GOD SEES OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM AS A *FEAST* TO  
WHICH WE ARE ALL INVITED.



Some say everyone, or almost everyone, will get to heaven. Others say only a few will. No one really knows, but in telling the Parable of the Wedding Feast, Jesus makes one thing clear: heaven is not just a matter of who is worthy or unworthy. It is a matter of who accepts God’s invitation and who rejects it.

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### Scriptures for the Week:

“I’ve had enough, Lord; take my life.”

Elijah, the prophet in 1 Kings 19:4

He lay down and fell asleep, but then an angel... touched him and ordered “Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you.”

1 Kings 19:7

Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven can be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son...”

Mt. 22: 1,2

Jesus said, “Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven that you may eat it and not die. I am the Living Bread...; whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

John 6: 49-51

Jesus said to Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

John 21: 15,16

For the Bread which You have broken, for the wine which You have poured,  
For the words, which You have spoken, now we give You thanks, O Lord.  
For the promise that You love us, for the gift of peace restored,  
At the table that you offer, strengthen all our lives, O Lord.

Amen