

# PSALM 23

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Psalms 23:5 (NKJV) - You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.

HOW COULD WE NOT FOCUS IN ON THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM? IT IS FAMOUS FOR A REASON. EACH STANZA IS PACKED WITH IMAGERY TO HELP US UNDERSTAND GOD AND HIS IMPACT ON OUR LIVES. MOST OF THE ALLEGORY IS TIED TO THE IDEA OF A SHEPHERD, SOMETHING THE AUTHOR, DAVID, WAS INTIMATELY FAMILIAR WITH. WHAT CAUGHT MY EYE AS I WAS READING IT RECENTLY WAS HOW ALMOST OFF-THEME VERSE FIVE IS. THE PREVIOUS FOUR VERSES ARE ABOUT GOD'S GUIDING AND SHEPHERDING, BUT THE FIFTH VERSE ALL OF A SUDDEN, PUTS US AT A TABLE.

WHEN LOOKING AT THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE, THE TABLE IMPLIES A MEAL. THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THIS IS A MEAL IN THE PRESENCE OF OUR ENEMIES TELLS US SOMETHING ABOUT GOD THAT THE REST OF THE PSALM DOESN'T FULLY TOUCH ON. THE MEAL IMPLIES PEACE. IT IS A MOMENT OF REST, AND SATISFACTION, AND REENERGIZING. THE LORD SPECIFICALLY TELLS US THAT NOT ONLY DID HE PREPARE IT FOR US, BUT HE DID IT WITH OUR ENEMIES RIGHT THERE, WITHIN SIGHT. THIS CARRIES ON THE THEME OF PEACE DESPITE OUR CIRCUMSTANCES FOUND IN THE EARLIER PARTS OF THE PSALM, BUT WITH AN ADDED LAYER. HE IS TAKING THE WEIGHT OF OUR ENEMIES OFF US, FOR A TIME. WE GET TO REST, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE RIGHT THERE, HE GIVES US A REPRIEVE, AND WHAT A REPRIEVE IT IS.

GOD'S CARE FOR US IS EVIDENT IN THE LANGUAGE USED HERE. HE PREPARED FOR US. HE THOUGHT ABOUT US, OUR NEEDS AND OUR STRUGGLES AHEAD OF TIME, AND WAS READY FOR US WHEN WE ARRIVED. SECONDLY, HE ANOINTS US. THIS MEANT NUMEROUS THINGS IN THE CULTURE AND TIME WHEN DAVID IS WRITING THIS. IT WAS A WAY OF TENDING TO THE SICK; POURING OIL ON THEM. GOD IS POURING HEALTH AND STRENGTH INTO US. IT WAS A WAY TO BESTOW HONOUR UPON SOMEONE. IN THE MIDST OF OUR ENEMIES GOD BRINGS NOT ONLY REST, BUT BESTOWS HONOUR AND VALUE ON US. ANOINTING WAS ALSO USED IN THE CONSECRATION OF A PRIEST AND THE CORONATION OF SAUL, AND WAS BELIEVED TO IMPART THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD. GOD POURS HIMSELF INTO US. FINALLY, DAVID SAYS THAT HIS CUP OVERFLOWS. GOD, IN HIS GOODNESS AND GRACE, MAKES SURE TO GIVE US MORE THAN ENOUGH TO MEET OUR NEEDS.

WHAT IS YOUR NEED TODAY? ARE YOUR ENEMIES ALL AROUND? LET OUR KING PREPARE A TABLE FOR US AND BESTOW ON US ALL THE PEACE AND REST THAT WE NEED. LET HIM REFRESH YOU AND ANOINT YOU SO THAT YOU CAN CONTINUE TO FOLLOW HIM.

WHAT IS GOD SPEAKING TO ME TODAY?