

PSALM 23: THE KING'S TABLE DEVOTIN AND DISCUSSION GUIDE

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, 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 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Opening Discussion:

- In verses 1-4, David sees Jesus as a Shepherd and himself as a sheep.
- In verses 5-6, David sees Jesus as a King and himself as a king's kid.
- How do these two analogies speak to you? How are they different, how are they the same?

Key thought: Whatever you are walking through, you are not walking alone.

- You'll walk through the valley...but I will walk with you.
- You'll be surrounded by enemies...but I'll prepare a table for you there.

Verse 5: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

- As you watched the illustration of the enemy's visit to The King's Table, how did you begin to see yourself in the illustration? Do you guard against the enemy's knock on your door and desire to have a conversation with you at The Table?
- Read 2 Corinthians 10:5: Do you easily open the door to the enemy's voice and dialog with him about whatever thoughts he brings to your mind that do not line up with the thoughts of God?
- Consider the conversations Pastor noted in his illustration: desire, debauchery, doubt, deceit, depression, disease, division. Which of these has had a seat at The Table recently? Can you think of other conversations you were drawn into by the enemy?

Four Ways to Know the Enemy is at Your Table:

1) It's better at another table.

- Read 2 Corinthians 11:14: How can you recognize the enemy's disguise when he arrives uninvited at The Table? What can you do to prevent him from sitting down for a conversation?
- Read John 10:10: What warning and what admonition do you glean from these words?

2) I'm not good enough.

- Read John 10:11: How do these words remind you of your identity in Christ?

- Read Psalm 23:6: What are you reminded about the goodness of God in this verse? What are you reminded about your own goodness?

3) I'm not going to make it.

- Consider Psalm 23:4: How do these words remind you that you WILL make it through the valley? How do they encourage you in the presence of your enemies?

4) I'm all alone.

- Read Joshua 1:5 and Hebrews 13:5: How do these verses remind you that you always have Jesus, and with Him you have all you need?
- What gives God the most glory, keeping you out of the valley and away from your enemies, or being with you in the valley and walking you out in the presence of your enemies?

Nine words that will change your life: Don't give the enemy a seat at your table!

Application:

- Read 1 Peter 5:6-11. The enemy may prowl around, but don't let him sit down.
- Find rest and restoration when your world is rocked:
 - 1) Humble yourself, there is a table if you'll look for it (verse 6).
 - 2) Peace is not the absence of conflict, but the presence of Christ (verse 7).
 - 3) Though the enemy prowls like a lion, your prince of peace is a Lion (verse 8).
 - 4) Your decision determines who is invited to dinner (verse 9).
 - 5) Restoration, confirmation, strength comes after the enemies' roar (verse 10).

Can you now let Psalm 23 speak to you and rewrite it in your own words?