

The Lavish Hospitality of God

Psalm 23:5

As David continues to paint a picture of a life without lack, he moves away from the imagery of a shepherd and sheep to that of a host. In verse 5, He describes God as a host – a very generous host. In fact, he says that God is a host who exhibits lavish hospitality. As we spend time considering this verse today, may God help us understand at a deeper level His generous heart towards us.

Opening Discussion: What makes you feel especially welcomed in someone's home?

Read Psalm 23

1. What is David saying when he says that God prepares a table for him among his enemies? What is the point of this picture?

Steve said:

David's enemies not only rebelled against him as God's anointed king; they had rebelled against God Himself! Of course David wasn't sinless, but his enemies were God's enemies also. How does this apply to us? First, **we need to have the right kind of enemies.** Like David we need to be so identified with God and His Son Jesus that we have the right kind of enemies. If we have enemies because we've been arrogant or unkind or unjust, we shouldn't expect to experience the safety in their presence that David did. Jesus said in Matthew 5:11, "*Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.*" If you have enemies because of your loyalty to Jesus, you are blessed; and spiritually you are safe and secure.

2. Just to be clear, what does Steve mean when he says that "we need to have the right kind of enemies"?
3. In what sense can we know we are safe and secure when we have enemies because of our loyalty to Jesus?
4. Regarding enemies, Steve made another point that we need to make sure that we are treating our enemies the ways Jesus instructed. How did Jesus teach us to treat our enemies?

Steve said:

The mission of Jesus was to convert and transform God's enemies into His friends. Jesus experienced the wrath of God so that all who believe in Him don't have to. Paul never forgot that he had been an enemy of God. He was traveling to Damascus to persecute followers of Christ when Jesus appeared to him. Paul never forgot that when he was God's enemy Christ died for Him (see 1 Timothy 1:12-17). Consequently, he renounced the arrogance he had as a Pharisee toward people who were far from God. Paul spent the rest of his life taking the gospel to other enemies of God - people like you and me.

5. How do you think it might affect your heart towards those who are far from God if you could consistently remember that you were once an enemy of God?

6. What is David saying about God when he says that God anoints his head with oil? What was the significance of that act?

7. What does it mean to say one's cup overflows?

8. As you think about a table prepared, an anointed head, and an overflowing cup, what does this verse say about God?

9. How is this important in your life right now?

Practicing the Rhythms of Rooted this Week



Daily Devotion: Spend time meditating on Psalm 23:5.



Prayer: Jesus taught us to pray for our enemies (Matt. 5:43-45). Take some time to pray for the "enemies" in your life.



Generosity: In light of God's generosity to you, what is one way you can express generosity to someone else this week? Plan and do it.