

CHEF SHEPHERD, PSALM 23:5A

Let us return to Psalm 23 today and take another beautiful thought concerning the third picture of Jesus Christ that we see in the Twenty-third Psalm, which is the picture of the Chef Shepherd. Jesus Christ is not only a Physician Shepherd, He is not only a Companion Shepherd, but He is a Chef Shepherd. How marvelous to know that He loves us, that He cares for us and that He can prepare exactly the “Table” that we have need of in His Precious Word. In Psalm twenty-three, and verse five, we find these precious words:

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: (Psalm 23:5a).

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Jesus Christ our wonderful Saviour does not send angels to prepare tables for us. He comes Himself, personally, to examine the hunger of our hearts, to examine the needs of our stature, spiritually; therefore, to minister unto us His Divine Precious Word. He ministers and gives unto us the Bread of Life. He prepares a Table and the word *prepare* means to spread out like a banquet table, and to set in rows, orderly arrangement, upon the Table that we might reach forth on His Table and lay hold of that which we have need of for our spiritual stature and our spiritual growth. We find God promising us in Isaiah:

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: (Isaiah 1:19).

In other words, we have some conditions to meet in order for our Bridegroom to come and spread the Table. And that is, if we be willing and obedient. And the word *willing* in the Hebrew means to breathe after. When we breathe after the LORD Jesus Christ and the Truth of His Word, then He will spread the banquet Table before us. Now, note, in this verse, that He did not only say to be obedient, but to be willing and obedient. You know, beloved, we can be obedient

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without being willing. And Jesus Christ wants us to have that willing heart that we breathe after, that we hunger and thirst like the Psalmist said, “My heart panteth after the LORD like a hart panteth after the waterbrooks.” So Jesus Christ wants us to pant after His Word. And He said, “Blessed are ye that hunger and thirst, ye shall be filled.” So when He sees us willing or He sees us hungering after the Truth.

It also means to give consent. It means to rest and be contented. So when we are willing, we are breathing after Him, we are giving consent for His Will in our life. We are humbling ourselves and becoming submissive to His Divine Will and, then, we are not anxious. We can be restful and we can be contented in Him, knowing that if we leave the choice to Him, He will give us the best. God gives the best to those that leave the choice to Him. So if we be willing and obedient, we can eat of the good of the land. So it is so beautiful to be obedient, not only to just pant after the LORD, and long after Him and thirst after Him and hunger after Him, but we can also be obedient.

So if we want the Chef Shepherd to prepare us a Table in the Word of God, if we will hunger and thirst after Him, if we will be willing and obedient, He will spread this Banquet Table. “Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.” Beloved, it does not matter how much of ourselves that we have not yet overcome that is not like Jesus Christ. It does not matter how many outward enemies that we might have. All we have to do is to hunger after Jesus Christ, and He will spread the Table. And if He spreads the Table, and we eat of the good of the land, then we surely shall grow thereby.

All right, so we find again in Psalm 22:26:

The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever (Psalm 22:26).

So when we are eating of His Table, we certainly are going to be satisfied. You know, many people in the world have an insatiable hunger and desire for this and that that can never be satisfied. But Jesus Christ, when He spread the Table for us, He puts exactly on that Table what will satisfy our heart, what will make us joyful and peaceful and happy in Him, but we have to be meek. He said, "The meek shall eat and be satisfied." Some people eat, and they do not have a humble spirit. They do not have a meek spirit, and they complain like the children of Israel in the wilderness. They ate, yes, of the Heavenly Manna that was sent down from God on High, and yet they were not satisfied because they were not humble, and they were not meek. But, beloved, if we be willing, and we hunger after him, and we humble ourself and be contented with a portion that He desires to mete out to us, we shall eat and we shall be satisfied.

Then, again in verse twenty-nine,

All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul (Psalm 22:29).

You can always tell when someone has eaten at the Banquet Table of the Chef Shepherd because they are humble. They long after Him. They are satisfied, and then they worship the LORD. Oh, there is no kind of worship in all the world that comes into your soul like the kind of worship that comes into your soul when you have eaten His Word, and you have been willing and you have been obedient for His Will in your life, and you have humbled your soul unto Him. And you have had your soul made fat by the Word of God. Your next greatest experience, then, is a heart overflowing with worship and praise and adoration to the LORD Jesus Christ for His Divine Word. There is no substitute for the Divine Word of God. The infinity of Truth is the greatest thing that you can touch in this world, in this life, and in the world to come.

So we thank God that God loved us and gave Himself in the Person of His Son, in the Person

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of His Word. “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). So when we behold the Word, like John beheld the Word in the Book of Revelation in the first chapter, the Word of God says in verse seventeen: “And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:” he prostrated himself in worship and total surrender unto the LORD Jesus Christ.

So we have a Chef Shepherd, today, beloved. Just meditate upon that. If you are hungry for attention, if you are hungry for love, if you are hungry for people to show concern, and they do not seem to understand, and they do not seem to minister, know of a surety that it is God, and He is pushing you into that place where you will look unto the Divine Chef Shepherd to spread a Table that you might eat at His Table and feed and grow fat upon Him.

Let us bow our heads and pray.

Heavenly Father, we come to You, again, today, in the Precious Wonderful Name of Jesus Christ, and we thank You for your Word that is a Light unto our path, a Lamp unto our feet. And we thank You for the sweetness, the living sweetness of the Wisdom of the Word of God. Bless it now to every heart that is partaking of Thy Word. LORD God, let not one Word fall upon a deaf ear today, but may they pick it up, and may it become a thought, a living thought that they can meditate upon for today, and may it change their lives, LORD Jesus, into Thy image and likeness because we pray in Your Precious Name. Amen. ☐