

“The Table”

Last Wednesday evening our Pastor was sharing a teaching from Psalm 23; when he got to verse 5, I felt a familiar tug at my heart, and felt this was something the Lord wanted me to pursue more deeply. Here are verses 4-5a from the NKJV: (4) *“Yea, 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;”*

I’d like to share several comments from The Enduring Word Commentary that express what I felt: *“Without departing from the previous picture of the valley of the shadow of death, David envisioned the provision and goodness given by the LORD as a host, inviting David to a rich **table** prepared for him. A magnificent banquet is provided by a most liberal and benevolent host; who has not only the bounty to feed me, but power to protect me; and, though surrounded by enemies, I sit down to this table with confidence, knowing that I shall feast in perfect security.” (Clarke)*

“In the presence of my enemies: This is a striking phrase. The goodness and care suggested by the prepared **table** is set right in the midst of ***the presence of my enemies***. The host’s care and concern doesn’t eliminate ***the presence of my enemies*** but enables the experience of God’s goodness and bounty even in their midst.”

“When a soldier is in the presence of his enemies, if he eats at all he snatches a hasty meal, and away he hastens to the fight. But observe: ‘Thou preparest a table,’ just as a servant does when she unfolds the damask cloth and displays the ornaments of the feast on an ordinary peaceful occasion. Nothing is hurried, there is no confusion, no disturbance, the enemy is at the door and yet God prepares a table, and the Christian sits down and eats as if everything were in perfect peace.” (Spurgeon)

This encourages me - even if I’m not necessarily going through a battle, but just dealing with the everyday stresses of life, I can hit the “pause” button, pull a chair up to the Lord’s table, and feast with the Bread of Life and refresh myself with His living waters! In Mt. 11:28 Jesus said: ***“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”*** He has saved a seat just for you! Need some peace in the midst of your chaos? Come, find your seat at the table! Amen!