

A. Introduction

1. Another view of our text <sup>-{2}</sup>.

- a. The young lady of the house had misbehaved. I don't know if it was because she had been saucy or had pouted instead of obeying mom, or what. But as a punishment, at supper time, her parents decided that it would be best if she were to sit at a small table by herself in the corner of the dining room
- b. No notice was taken of the little girl until the rest of the family heard her praying over her meal with these words: "I thank You, Dear Lord, for preparing a table before me in the presence of my enemies!"

2. well this morning, I want to take another view of our text than that which is normally taken

- a. I am sure that you are all aware of the fact of David's being a shepherd boy
  - (A) so this psalm can be studied from the perspective of the human shepherd describing the Divine Shepherd
  - (B) which has been done by a number of people
    - (1) particularly Phillip Keller in the well-known book, "A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23"
    - (2) and certainly more ably than I can do
- b. but David, the shepherd boy, later became David the king
  - (A) this verse is equally pertinent to David the King
  - (B) and it also relates to the fact that our King, the Lord Jesus Christ has given us His table where this morning we are going to remember Him
- c. I would like to share some rambling thoughts about Psalm 23:5; about the Lord's table: both that prepared for David and that prepared for us in celebrating the Lord's supper
  - (A) one: the table is established by the Lord
  - (B) two: the table is a table of peace with God
  - (C) three: the table is a victory demonstration to enemies

## B. The Lord Has Established This Table

### Thou preparest a table

1. when Samuel went to anoint David to be king, he was still a young shepherd boy who had to be fetched from his flocks
  - a. David did not come to the throne until many years later
  - b. yet, throughout his life, with years
    - (A) spent as the king in waiting
    - (B) spent as king, first over part then all of Israel
    - (C) spent as king in exile
    - (D) spent as king returned to his throne
  - c. throughout he recognized that his table had been furnished by the providential care of his Lord: two notable highlights
    - (A) first: after Jonathan's warning David and his men fled from Saul, they were provided with the shewbread at the tabernacle of the Lord — literally from the table of the Lord — God's providential care (1 Sam 21: 1–6)
    - (B) second: when Abigail provided 200 loaves of bread and 2 bottles of wine to him and his men after her husband Nabal's churlish rejection of their petition for help — God's providential care as he tells Abigail: "[Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me.](#)" (1 Samuel 25: 32)
2. likewise, it is the Lord who establishes this communion service
  - a. many centuries prior to Jesus' birth, God established the Passover meal, looking forward in type to Christ's death
  - b. Jesus, the night that He was betrayed, reformed the Passover meal into a celebration where we look back to His death for us, and look forward to His return in glory
  - c. perhaps you have heard of groups who have established very specific rules to be met, or requiring affiliation with their group, before a person can participate in this service
  - d. but Jesus in planning this memorial, said to His disciples, "[with desire I have {a Hebraism: exceedingly} desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer](#)" (Luke 22: 15)
  - e. this service, then, is not for private groups, but for His disciples, for those knowing Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour: the Lord prepared it for YOU!

### C. The Table Represents Peace with God

**Thou preparest a table before me**

1. In the east, when you wanted to establish peace and friendship with someone, you had a meal together with them
  - a. that made their sacred duty one of peace toward you
  - b. remember Abraham with the three travellers? (Gen 18)
    - (A) he begged them to stay for a meal
    - (B) he stirred up Sarah (in her 90's) to prepare it
    - (C) he found a calf and had one of his servants dress it
    - (D) and he, himself, (almost 100) served them
  - c. because eat with someone founded a sacred bond of peace
  
2. David knew all about these meals of peace
  - a. he had defeated all the lands round about Israel
  - b. so that, when Solomon ascended the throne, the land
    - (A) stretched on the western edge from Hamath in Syria to the river of Egypt, bordering, for a great part, the Mediterranean Sea (2 Chronicles 7:8)
    - (B) stretched on the eastern edge from the Euphrates to the Red Sea then to Egypt, bordering the Syrian and Arabian deserts (2 Chronicles 9:26, 1 Kings 4:21)
  - c. after each victory, David would have sat down at the peace table to make, or rather impose, a covenant of peace with the defeated kings of those countries, and they, in turn made peace with their new sovereign
  - d. and so, in a like manner, God in preparing this table before David, makes a covenant of peace with David
  
3. and this table of the Lord where we remember Him
  - a. involves a covenant made by God with those eating there
    - (A) Jesus said, "**This cup is the new covenant in my blood**"
    - (B) this memorial, celebration meal is also a peace treaty
    - (C) with our new Sovereign; with the Triune God

- b. Colossians 1:19-20 (NAS): For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fulness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile {that is, end the war with} all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.
- c. this morning we remember the Lord's death, but we also remember that because of His death and "having been justified by faith, we have peace with God" (Rom 5:1)

D. The Table is a Victory Demonstration to the Enemies

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies

- 1. now David knew all about enemies
  - a. as a shepherd boy in the form of the bear and the lion
  - b. as a youth in the form of the giant Goliath
  - c. as a young man in the form of the enemies of Israel ahead while looking over his shoulder at King Saul behind him
  - d. and as a king, he had enemies all around him, even his son
- 2. yet picture this: the Sovereign of all the universe makes a peace treaty with the sovereign of Israel — an alliance — in the very face of these enemies — you can almost translate it shaking the treaty under the very nose of the enemy
  - a. what a victory for David!
  - b. what a demonstration of God's love!
- 3. here this morning, we partake of a memorial meal, a meal of peace, a celebration of victory, recalling that God has "delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son" (Colossians 1:13, NAS)
  - a. this is done under the very nose of our enemy, Satan
  - b. our partaking of this memorial this morning is a witness to the powers of darkness that we no longer fear them for we are part of God's family, "looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Christ Jesus;" (Titus 2:13)

- E. Conclusion: let us celebrate this communion service this morning
1. that the Lord Jesus planned it for us, His disciples
  2. that it reminds us of the peace we now have with God
  3. and that it demonstrates the victory Christ has over Satan

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Various English versions of the Holy Bible are used in this sermon. Some (for example, the AV, ASV, and NAS) seek to be strictly translations, while others (and especially PHIL) contain paraphrasing which involves a certain amount of subjective interpretation. Nevertheless, there is little material difference in meaning among these. Some prove slightly clearer on some verses than others. Looking at more than one version sometimes sheds additional light on any particular verse. Explanatory additions to the Bible text are shown in [square brackets]. The versions are identified as:

ASV	American Standard Version of 1901
AV	Authorized (King James) Version
NAS	New American Standard version © 1975 The Lockman Foundation
NIV	New International Version © 1984 by the International Bible Society
NKJV	New King James Version © 1979 Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers
PHIL	New Testament Translation © 1972 by J. B. Phillips
RSV	Revised Standard Version © 1946, 1952 by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.
WEY	The New Testament in Modern Speech © 1902, 1912 R. F. Weymouth

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2. Fredericksburg Bible Illustrator Supplements, Holwick Illustrations #8365