



## **You Prepare a Table Before Me - September 2021**

David celebrates the protection and guidance of God. Sheep guarded by a skilled shepherd are led to food and water, and protected from harm. In the same way, David praises God for giving him peace. The knowledge of God's protection and provision are a great comfort. This psalm incorporates themes of supply, defense, assurance, and care from God. Many scholars believe David wrote this psalm most likely in the latter part of his life. The psalm shifts in mood in verses 4–6 from the peacefulness portrayed in the first three verses. It turns to a somber passage, but carries the assurance that the Lord protects His sheep and fills their days with His blessings. This passage also differs from the first three verses by addressing the Lord directly- "You are with me, You prepare a table for me, You anoint my head with oil."

### **Read Psalm 23, Ephesians 6:10-17, 2 Corinthians 11:14-15**

David writes, "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies." Pastor Riddle made three main points.

1. While sitting at the table our focus is on the Shepherd not the enemies watching.

Enemies can be both seen and unseen, what enemies do you feel constantly in your presence? Are there times your focus is on them rather than the Lord in front of you?

What are some ways you can place your focus on the One who prepared the table?

2. Don't give the enemy a seat at your table.

This is the Lord's table that He has prepared just for you. Often we give the enemy a seat at our table, eating our food and drinking from our cups. Have you found yourself giving a seat, a voice, and vote in your life? What are some steps you can make to "take back your table" and share communion between you and the Shepherd?

3. The reservation was costly.

For Jesus Christ to prepare a table for you in this life and the one to come it cost Him everything. As we come to the table of the Lord for communion, what are some ways you can prepare your heart to remember His sacrifice?

**Serve:** Are there people in your life who are struggling with enemies seen and unseen? What are some ways you can come along side and serve them?

