

Intro: Couple months ago at dinner with my wife in restaurant.

Looked up and noticed table beside me: 5 people: Mom, Dad, 3 kids. 4 of 5 phones: Little girl, 8 NOTHING!

There are different ways to eat! In the rest of the world there are still remnants of sanity and hospitality.

Arab culture for instance, which David is closely related to (Eastern) Meal is still a community time.

About hospitality; Connection; Honoring and Serving; About showing care and concern.

Keep that in mind as we read the next phrase of the Lord's Supper.

When David talks about a table being prepared for him...it isn't a TV table in front of the couch where you veg...

It is an Eastern feast (word used describes a party!) and it is all about a place, position and time of being honored!

In fact, the next phrase, you anoint my head with oil, is what you DO at the one of those feasts...honor someone that way

READ PSALM 23

3 Thoughts about the Table

1. God's Blessing and Provision Shows Up At The Most Unexpected Times!

Keep in mind where we have been up til this point in the Psalm

Many people feel like this I a bit of a flashback to when David ran and hid among the Philistines (Bitter enemies)

Eating at the table of the King! The king of the Philistines must have thought, *Enemy of my Enemy is my Friend!*

- Time: Just walked through the Valley of Shadow of Death! (Magnificent Unexpected Feast!)
- Place: Out in desert; place of emptiness, loss, dry, hungry! (Becomes a place of hospitality)
- Person: God prepares the table. YOU prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies)

Illus: Eastern Hospitality is renown throughout the world

When you are welcomed into someone's home/tent; then you are their guest, are to be honored and provided for

Applic: David is telling us; God, in the midst of a terrible time and place; provides a place of hospitality, provision

We sometimes miss that because we are so focused on the enemies...we can't see the provision

We miss it because it is unexpected...not something that is even on our radar

So when the opportunity arises, we totally go by...never take advantage of God's blessing and provision

2. We Often Overlook/Ignore/Postpone God's Blessing In Our Life.

We are so focused on "doing" for God that we overlook or ignore "being" with God

- Like Adam and Eve God gives us a "task" "Father, Mother, Breadwinner, Friend, Worker (All Good)
- But, when God comes in cool of evening to spend time with us we say:
"One more tree, One more bush, one more weed"

God, let me do this ONE MORE THING...then I will stop...then I will slow down, then I will be with you! PROMISE

- It's as if we are in OUR garden, the one God us to care for...and we part bushes, step through

~There is a magnificent table....Incredible feast!

~We look...and we see Jesus, Sitting at the table...waiting for us

~He invites us to the table...sit down...eat with me...spend time with me

~We say: Just one more thing I have to do, One more activity, One more task

~And we walk away...leaving Him at the table.

3. We Allow The Worry Of What "Might Happen" To Steal The Blessing of What Is!

You prepare a table "in presence of my enemies"

- Couldn't you find a better place!
~Imagine sitting down to eat with your enemies surrounding you! Can you even enjoy your meal!
~You are having a feast in that environment...without worrying, or fretting, or concern of any kind
~Able to do that because you are under the blessing, cover and prosperity of the king!
Could be on mountaintop Could be at the table of the King
- The BEST place is anywhere God is present!
Given a place of honor, a place of protection, a place of provision and blessing

Applic: For David, and For us, we have to remember: God is the one who picked the place!

In the Eastern hospitality mode: NOTHING is going to be able to intrude on His hospitality

God is teaching us: Trust me, It's OK. I have this...Don't worry: Sit Down and Eat!

CONCL: Two Questions I have For you to Consider Tonight In Light of This Study

1. What "Distractions" Keep you from God's Presence? What Keeps You From the Table He has prepared?

Take a moment and think. Pray. Ask God: What is keeping you from being with Him?

Jesus told us this: "I am the bread of life" If anyone comes to me and eats, never be hungry again

Yet, many of us are starving for spirituality. What is keeping you from the table? It's there...You walking away

2. What Blessings Are you missing because you don't sit down?

What does God want to do in you...that you have overlooked? What does God want to do through you?

What problem would He take away? But you won't stop?

What does He want to give you...you wont slow down for

What will it take for YOU to sit down...In the midst of every distraction...and BE at His table?