



God Prepares a Table Before Me

*“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.” Psalm 23:5 (NIV)*

Number 17 in the series “The Lord is My Shepherd”

Every summer the shepherd would lead his sheep to the top of the mountains to graze. The high mountains where shepherds graze their sheep are called tablelands. Before the shepherd would lead his sheep up the mountains, he would always go up by himself to inspect the grounds. He would make sure that the grass was healthy and that there was plenty of good, clean water and places for the sheep to rest. He would also destroy all poisonous weeds. His sheep were of great value to him, and he was going to provide for them and protect them.

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV) reads, *“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”* Beloved, Jesus our Good Shepherd has gone into every situation before us. He suffered more pain, more attacks and more temptations than you and I ever will, and He showed us the way of victory. John 10:11 (NIV) reads, *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”* Christ proved His love for us by freely sacrificing His life on the cross as the payment for our sins. He will not fail us in our times of suffering or temptations.

As a wife I buy and cook good food for my family. I love them, so I do not want to feed them junk food. I serve them healthy, well-balanced meals daily. Jesus

loves us. Daily He prepares a table before us—His Word. The Bible is healthy, well-balanced food and clean, pure, living water that keeps our spirit, soul, and body healthy. Satan is like a wild beast, a very real enemy who daily tries to destroy our health and homes. He constantly attacks us with temptations to draw us away from following Jesus. John 10:10 (NIV) reads, *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*

Some Christians blame the devil for everything, including their willful rebellion. Others joke and mock or deny the existence of Satan. The Bible tells us he is a real and powerful enemy. All we have to do is look at our lives: destroyed families, abortions, sickness, addictions, rebellious parents and children, etc., etc.

Beloved, God knows everything that will come into our lives before it happens. That is why it is important for us to daily read and obey the Bible—the table that God provides for us in the presence of our enemies. That is our weapon of warfare with which to fight and defeat the devil. God’s amazing grace gives us victory in the midst of suffering and temptation, but we have to draw close to Him every day, and we can be assured that He will never fail us nor forsake us.

— *Janice McBride*

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