

81. *An extended banqueting table*



I'm awake at night-not a wink of sleep;
I can't even say what's bothering me.
I go over the days one by one
I ponder the years gone by
I play music, surf the net, watch very early morning TV, and
make endless cups of tea all through the night,
wondering how to get my life together. Psalm 77: 1-6 TMB

Adversity, betrayals and stress will keep you awake at night when you so want the refreshing escape that sleep offers. Israel under the leadership of Moses was moving through the uncaring wilderness with enemy nations opposing the escapees from Egypt on every side. There was much cause for anxiety. In the midst of this YHWH provided manna and poultry in plentiful supply.

Today in the presence of your enemies and adversity, God is furnishing you, with loving detail, everything you need and more. All sorts of provision and blessing are piled high. These feasts of blessing come via angels, words of encouragement and prophesy, inner gifts of fortitude and insight, supernatural skill in battle, protection and quiet blessings like wayside flowers. A minstrel's song suddenly bursts upon your memory and cheers your heart.... your back is against the wall - but you are borne up by the presence of *the Good Shepherd* replete with rod and staff.

This Shepherd is also *the Most Gracious Host*, Psalm 23 informs us. He provides “food that we know not of” (Jn 4:32) in lavish ways while you are under duress and attack.

More than this, the extensive table that He provides in communion is sufficient in its bounty and cornucopia of delights, to allow your enemies to come and put their feet under the table. Judas and the cowardly unfaithful disciples were welcome at the table. So God is enabling and inviting all who disappoint, anger, betray and hurt us to share in the table too. The extravagant love of God encompasses not just us, but those who oppose us too. We are asked to receive supernatural power to love them with the love of the Shepherd-Host.

References

You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, my brimming cup runs over Ps 23:5

He assured them, “I have nourishment of which you know nothing” Jn 4:32

All things work together for the good of the one who loves Me. Rm

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Fv1lV31Jmgo#!

Peter Furler’s contemporary version of Ps 23 with slides and lyrics.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkzC7lbC5Ns&feature=related>

I am..... the Good Shepherd teaching 3 mins.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ervcj18qeyg>

Ps 23 modern song and images

Phillip Keller *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23* Zondervan 2007

Lucardo Max *Safe in the Shepherd's Arms* Thomas Nelson 2009