



## 23: A PREPARED TABLE

June 23, 2019

Pastor Keith Jenkins

### BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

"Some people resist coming to the table because of the shame they feel. They think they're not worthy. Guess what? They're not. Nobody is. But grace says, 'Come to the table anyway.'"

—Pastor Keith

### MAIN TEXT:

*"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.*

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.*

*You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." (Psalm 23 NIV)*

### SUPPORTIVE TEXT(S):

*"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)*

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:1-3)*

*For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)*

*And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. (Colossians 2:15)*

*When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked. "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." (2 Kings 6:15-17)*

*David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"*

*Now there was a servant of Saul's household named Ziba. They summoned him to appear before David, and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" "At your service," he replied.*

*The king asked, "Is there no one still alive from the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?" Ziba answered the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is lame in both feet." "Where is he?" the king asked. Ziba answered, "He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar."*

*So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel. When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor. David said, "Mephibosheth!" "At your service," he replied. "Don't be afraid," David said to him, "for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table. "*

*Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?" Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul's steward, and said to him, "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master's grandson may*

*be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table." (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.)*

*Then Ziba said to the king, "Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table like one of the king's sons. (2 Samuel 9:1-11)*

*For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me. (1 Corinthians 11:23-25)*

## MESSAGE SUMMARY

The 5th verse of the 23rd Psalm talks about a table being prepared in an odd place: surrounded by enemies. This table was not prepared haphazardly. It was not prepared in a rush like when your in-laws call to say they are coming over in an hour and you are frantically cleaning.

This table was prepared with care for the honored guests, which are us.

The table may be surrounded by our enemies, in the midst of a storm, while the battle is raging. However, the table is a victory feast with our names on "reserved for" plaques, because Jesus has already won the war!

God is calling us to come to the table as his sons and daughters! The table is always available for us to come and have hope, peace, and joy. We can have hope in our destination in our victory because Jesus has already overcome. Communion is a great example of coming to the table and celebrating Jesus' victory. Communion allows us to surrender our battles to him who has won and claim the life and hope only God can provide!

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping*

### LEAN IN

*These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. Have you been an honored guest? Or felt honored by a reservation?
2. Have you ever had dinner with acquaintances or people you did not know well?  
How was that different than having dinner with close friends or family?
3. Is it easy to have a nice peaceful dinner in a noisy chaotic restaurant?
4. Have you had times in your life when you are eating more fast food car dinners than sit down meals? What does a sit down meal feel like after a busy season of quick meals?

### LOOK DOWN

*These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read.*

*Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max*

1. In Psalm 23:5, what, if any of it, seems odd?
2. How does the first part of the Psalm 23:5 relate to John 14:1-3?  
Can you see a correlation between the two?
3. What does Ephesians 6:12 tell us about the enemies surrounding the table in Psalm 23:5?
4. What connections can you see between 2 Kings 6:15-17 and Ephesians 6:12?
5. In Colossians 2:15, who has triumphed? How does this verse relate to John 16:33?

### LOOK OUT

*These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.*

*Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max*

1. Pastor Keith said that we are not exempt from the brokenness of the world. What are some enemies that you see in the world or some places you see the brokenness?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, CONT.

2. How could being honored guests at the table vs. acquaintances change people's perspective on life?
3. Do you see places in the world where people take heart and have hope in Jesus having already overcome the world?
4. Pastor Keith and several verses talked about the unseen battle, not with flesh and blood. Where do you see this in the world? Do you believe there is an unseen world?
5. Mephibosheth had the perspective of being a "dead dog", but David treated him as a son. Have you seen a situation where people had different perspectives like this? If so, where?

## LOOK IN

*These are questions that help you consider personal application.*

*Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max*

1. How does it feel to have someone prepare a table or meal specifically for you?  
How does it change your outlook?
2. Do you have brokenness, struggles, battles that are hidden? How does the thought of the Holy Spirit being with you change your situation?
3. Do you find it easy or difficult to come to the victory table when there are still battles going on? What does that look like for you to rest and celebrate victory during struggles?
4. What does being a son or daughter of God, the King, mean to you?
5. Where can you look back and see the kindness of God? How does looking back on those times change your perspective about the battles you have now?

## LIVE IT OUT

*These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.*

*Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. When God says "Come to the table", how can you go to the table this week on a daily basis?
2. How will you let God's perspective of the victory is already won affect you through your battles?
3. Pastor Keith said, "Don't forfeit your seat." What can you do not forfeit your seat?

*NOTE: On the following page you will find a set of sermon notes created by Charissa Burns, an artist who calls B4 home. We include them purely for your enjoyment and encouragement, courtesy of Charissa. You can follow her on the 'Gram @charissaburnsstudio*

# PSALM 23

26-23-2019

The good shepherd is with us through the highs and the lows of life. He will not leave us...ever!

→ If Jesus is with me I can endure it ALL.

We are not exempt from the brokenness and enemies of this world. But Jesus is with us.

John 16:33 → He has already overcome!

The struggles, troubles, etc. are part of our journey... BUT THEY ARE NOT OUR DESTINATION

VS. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

→ TO BE GOD'S GUEST IS DEEP RELATIONSHIP NOT JUST AN ACQUAINTANCE!  
covenant relationship with God!

He prepares a table...

We are honored guests! There is care taken in his preparations. There is peace and joy at the table.

→ It is right in the middle of the enemies.

In the midst of your battles you already have the VICTORY in Jesus!

We don't have to wait for the end of the battle...from our perspective...for the victory feast. → THE VICTORY IS ALREADY OURS. So we can feast in the middle of the battle.

Colossians 2:15 Jesus TRIUMPHED at the cross

Ephesians 6:12 we are not fighting against flesh & blood and

→ OUR FAITH IS GROWING AND BEING AUTHENTICATED IN THOSE MOMENTS.

In the moments of struggle we have doubts & fears, we have to remember the cross and the great hope we have because of what Jesus did.

We might find ourselves in obscure battles, but God is still present there even when others might not know.

THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL BE THERE & KEEP YOU. THERE IS NO PLACE TOO OBSCURE FOR HIM. HE WILL BE THERE.

In your battle God is calling you. He is saying "COME TO THE TABLE!"

He says to us that he has already taken care of and overcome it So Come to the table!

Don't forfeit your seat! It's reserved with your name on it

RESERVED FOR  
- your name -

Faith is in spite of what I see I can have courage in Him <sup>knowing the unseen battle is won.</sup> ~~and the unseen battle is won.~~ He prepares a table and goes to battle for us. 2 Kings 6:15-17

When you reflect back you can see the full kindness of God! We know we don't see the kindness, but God doesn't see us the way we see ourselves.

→ HE SEES US AS HIS SONS & DAUGHTERS!

COME TO THE  
Table!