

GOD'S PROVISION

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING IN THIS SERIES:

1. We are like sheep and therefore unable to provide for ourselves, protect ourselves or save ourselves.
2. God is like a shepherd who knows us individually, loves us perfectly, and cares for our every need.

THERE ARE 2 METAPHOR POSSIBILITIES IN VS. 5:

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

- Psalm 23:5,6

SOME WOULD VIEW VERSES 5 AND 6 THIS WAY...

- The "table" is a mountain plateau or piece of leather.
- The anointing of the head was for insects and lesions.
- The cup overflowing is a bowl of water used by shepherds.

However, there are two things to note:

— These analogies have no Biblical or historical basis.

— For sheep, eating and drinking have already been discussed!

THE PROBLEM WITH METAPHORS

1. They are never perfect.
2. They only tell one side of a story.

To David, we are like sheep, but we are also like victors! So, he changes the metaphor so that we will have a full understanding of our relationship with our God.

YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME

- The table is a picture of a relationship and an intimacy!
- In the middle-east, to prepare a table for someone was the ultimate act of hospitality. It was a true celebration.



- The table is in the presence of my enemies because we have won the victory and the enemies must watch as we eat.

YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL



her many sins have been forgiven — for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

- The oil is a picture of refreshing and healing!
- To anoint someone's head with oil showed that you were a good host and that you wanted to honour your guest.

"Then He turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷Therefore, I tell you,

- Luke 7:44-47

MY CUP OVERFLOWS!

- This is a picture of abundance!
- Even today, in many cultures, a cup is filled to the brim to show the thankfulness in having plenty.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. ¹¹"I am the good shepherd."

- John 10:10,11

"Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."

- 2 Peter 1:2

GOD IS MY VICTORIOUS HOST AND I AM HIS HONOURED GUEST

- There is *celebration* and victory in God.
- There is *rejoicing* in anointing.
- There is *thankfulness* for abundance!

*"You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by **anointing you with the oil of joy.**"*

- Hebrews 1:9

AS I COME TO THE TABLE OF COMMUNION...

- There needs to be a balance in our attitudes:

- I remember that I'm a sheep, so I can't save myself.
- I remember that I'm a guest (child) of the ultimate Host, so my relationship is secure and I have all the benefits.

"Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ..."

- Romans 8:17



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- There is _____ and victory in God.
- There is _____ in anointing.

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- There is _____ for abundance!



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