

(pray)

SERIES: **GOD is GOOD- God's goodness to me in Psalm 23**

TEXT: **Psalm 23:5 A Feast for the Faint**

Read Psalm 23:1-5

HOOK- Little boy wanted a bike for Christmas, mom told him to write Jesus a letter.

“Dear Jesus, if you give me a bike I promise to be good for a year” ... “no way he'll buy that”

“...for a month....a week...a day?”-

Frustrated and running out of options, grabbed Mary from the fam's Nativity set, and wrote-

“Dear Jesus, IF YOU EVER WANT TO SEE YOUR MOTHER AGAIN!...”

THE TENSION- God is aware that you don't deserve His goodness

You're likely aware also, but He is more.

If you don't realize that, your view of yourself is too high and your view of God is too low.

Having said that:

THEOLOGICALLY UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH- God doesn't stop being good because we fail to be good.

The overarching narrative of the bible proves this.

WHY THAT'S IMPORTANT- God's goodness is intended to persuade you to be good

Romans 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His kindness, restraint, and patience, not recognizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

DISCALIMER- these truths are for followers of Jesus only

Encourage if that's you

Entice if that's not you

MAIN TAKEAWAY- God is prepared to be more good to me, than I am prepared to grasp

Let's unpack a glimpse of that from this verse; 4 discoveries about God's goodness -

At this point there's a shift from Shepherd/ sheep – Host/ guest – Deeper intimacy of a home- a meal

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

YOU PREPARE A TABLE

Though I shouldn't expect a seat at God's table, I discover He's been expecting me

Why would a powerful King not only invite into his house but prepare a banquet and honor someone else?

It doesn't make sense if it's another RULER; doesn't make sense if it's a SERVANT;

doesn't make sense if it's an ENEMY or STRANGER; but it does make sense if it is his SON/ DAUGHTER.

Those with older kids, when they come home to visit, don't you roll out the red carpet for them?

When I was 17, I moved 500 miles away- broke my mother's heart. I moved back home at 18, my mother spoiled me rotten (which was nice because I was broke and not a real grownup as I had previously thought)

Ephesians 1:5 NLT God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

He's eagerly expecting you- He has made preparations.

You're not a burden- even with all your mess and failure, sin and stupidity

Luke 15 Jesus tells 3 stories- lost sheep, lost coin, lost son

**SET UP THE STORY*

Luke 15:20-24 So he got up and went to his father. But while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. ²¹ The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I'm no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father told his slaves, 'Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Then bring the fattened calf and slaughter it, and let's celebrate with a feast, ²⁴ because this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' So they began to celebrate.

IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES

that's an odd thing to say; why not in the presence of my friends and family?

In the greatness of my troubles, I discover God's goodness is greater still

God doesn't always remove our enemies, but He does shame them as they try to shame us!

Did you know that God can bless you and give you joy IN THE MIDST OF THE TROUBLE!

So that as the world watches eagerly for you to cave in they would be shocked God is holding you up!

Cancer, infertility, death of loved one, sickness, tight on money, etc.

Troubles cannot hinder God's blessings! I don't know if you knew that!

The presence of problems *means nothing* when the Lord is in the room

Before a watching world; He vindicates

If God is for us who can be against us? **Romans 8:31**

You may have many enemies who may have much to say about you, maybe some stuff even true, but the Father is NOT ashamed of you, not fed up with you, not DONE with you-

His goodness is greater still!

YOU ANNOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL

When I'm tired and worn, I discover God's blessing is for the weak & weary

For us more familiar with the bible, when we hear "anoint" we think initiating someone into royalty (Samuel w/ Dave)
But in this context the idea is one of hospitality- refreshing the dryness journey to get here

Anoint- Hb: dashen- lit. *to be/grow fat*

Are you tired? Are you worn? Has life's journey weighed you down?

Work is demanding more than what you can give.

Little sons and daughters drain your attention- you forget who you are

Years of sickness ; memories of pain are exhausting for the soul ; sin has stripped you of strength

Matthew 5:3 blessed are the poor in spirit

You anoint my head with oil; -blessing and honor from Him to me!

I think of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples and their inability to understand what was happening

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life—a ransom for many."

MY CUP OVERFLOWS

In a world defined by greed I discover God is generously good

Those who give their lives to Christ, God doesn't just forgive; He doesn't just accept;
He doesn't just allow them to be in the room;
He delights in them as a parent delight in their child.

And it's all based NOT on what we have done or failed to do,
but on the righteousness of Jesus and what He has done on our behalf.

God offers more than forgiveness and mercy; He lavishes acceptance and grace, value, purpose

Others take, but God so loved the world that HE GAVE...

God has more provision than we have need/ His resource is more than our demand/deficiency

MAIN TAKEAWAY- God is prepared to be more good to me, than I am prepared to grasp

He is unproportionally good to us – we don't deserve it and yet he gives and he gives and he gives...

Annie Johnson Flint was born on Christmas morning in 1866. She is one of the great hymn writers.
But she had an extremely difficult life.

She and her sister became orphans. She was adopted by a Christian family and eventually became a schoolteacher. In her second year she got diagnosed with severe rheumatoid arthritis. She was told she would lose function and ability of her body. Her adoptive parents died shortly after her diagnosis. Her body became mangled, and she was bed ridden for the rest of her life. They would force a crayon or chalk between her stiff fingers so she could write poetry. Eventually she could not even do that, so she would use her knuckles to type on a type writer. She lived every day in excruciating pain. Eventually she got cancer. She lost control of her bowels and lived in diapers. Soon after she became progressively blind. Before she died her body had filled with boils from lying in bed for so long. On September 8th 1932, her last words before she died were to her doctor. He asked if there was anything she wished to say before he gave her a painkilling injection. *"I have nothing to say, it's all right"*. But there was much she had said in her life. In her most famous poem, later turned into a hymn she wrote:

**He giveth more grace as our burdens grow greater,
He sendeth more strength as our labors increase;
To added afflictions He addeth His mercy,
To multiplied trials He multiplies peace.**

**When we have exhausted our store of endurance,
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources
Our Father's full giving is only begun.**

**Fear not that thy need shall exceed His provision,
Our God ever yearns His resources to share;
Lean hard on the arm everlasting, availing;
The Father both *you* and *your* load will upbear.**

**His love has no limits, His grace has no measure,
His power no boundary known unto men;
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.**

GOD IS PREPARED TO BE MORE GOOD TO ME, THAN I AM PREPARED TO GRASP

What best defines your relationship with God at the moment?

Do you see yourself only as a servant- in the presence of the king, but only there to serve, and do, and perform?
Or a child seating at the table being loved and cared for?

CALL TO ACTION- Pray this prayer: Lord help me to see your goodness where I failed to see it before

(CALL UP WORSHIP TEAM) **COMMUNION**

Mark 14: 18, 22-24 Jesus eats at the table in the presence of His enemies

Mark 14:3, 6, 8 Jesus anointed for burial

Mark 14: 33-36 Jesus drank the cup of God's wrath

In Mark 14 Jesus prepares a table for them establishing the new covenant

He drank the cup of our curse and God's wrath so that He could overflow our cups with blessing an life

BULPEN-

Our enemies: the world, the flesh, the devil

Matthew 3:17 the statement from the Father for His Son establishes identity, security, acceptance, worth, relationship, recognition.

Jesus had not yet performed a single miracle

In **Matthew 17:5** in the midst of Jesus' flourishing ministry again the Father declares...

When they asked Jesus to teach them to pray, what were the first words He uttered? (Matthew 6:9) "Our Father"

Galatians 4:4-7 NLT ⁴ But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. ⁵ God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. ⁶ And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." ⁷ Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

Oil- anointing- gethsemane "oil press" – the oil of Jesus obedience and righteousness is what He lavishes on us- His life, His merit, His accomplishment, His innocence

The verse just keeps on building and building, stacking more extravagant pictures of Gods' delight of us

Luke 15 prodigal son- father throws him a feast also- have you strayed? If you belong to Jesus Christ, He delights in you God likes you; even more, He loves you right now!

If you are born again He delights in you and lavished blessing on you.

If you are not yet in Christ, He longs for you to come to Him and truly surrender yourself into His care

If this had not been divinely Holy Spirit inspired we would be moved to criticize David for writing this!

Imagine you called the police chief, or the CEO of your company or the president, and you said- "you make me dinner, you set the table you cook the meal, you serve my plate"

Psalm 133:1-2 NLT How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony! ² For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil that was poured over Aaron's head, that ran down his beard and onto the border of his robe.

Ephesians 3:8 NLT Though I am the least deserving of all God's people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ.

Of sinners who follow the beats **Revelation 14:10a** ...he will also drink the wine of God's wrath, which is mixed full strength in the cup of His anger.

A home at the end of the journey (V6)

Ephesians 2:4-5 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love that He had for us, ⁵ made us alive with the Messiah even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace!

It is not His care to remove temptation, but to strengthen the tempted. Not to remove trouble but to comfort the troubled.

That God delights in us is such a foreign concept for some because of this: you yourself don't truly know what it's like to delight in God, and so you cannot fathom why in the world He would delight in YOU!

John 14:1-3 "Your heart must not be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you. ³ If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come back and receive you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also.