

Wednesday Night Bible Study November 1, 2023 Lesson 7

## **Wednesday Night Bible Study**

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### **Queens Chapel**

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#### **Lesson 7**

#### **"God Shows Me Favor"**

**1 November 2023**

"You prepare a feast for me  
in the presence of my enemies."

**Psalm 23:5 (NIV)**

King David knew what it meant to be attacked emotionally, verbally, and physically. As a young man, he was anointed by the prophet Samuel to be the next king of Israel. (1 Samuel 16)

But Saul was still king. Even though David served him faithfully and loyally, Saul was jealous of the future king, and he decided to kill David. David had to run for his life by hiding in caves while lies were being told about him across the kingdom.

Yet, David never spoke out against King Saul. He never retaliated, because God was preparing David to be a king who followed God's heart.

Does it sound like David was stressed out? No! He didn't have to use up all his energy defending himself because he trusted God to be his defender. It takes a lot of faith and humility to rest and trust God when you're under attack, misunderstood, and/or when people spread rumors about you.

When that happens, everything in you wants to rise up and do something about it. How do you handle people and situations like that? You don't. You let God handle them. Not only will God defend you, but He will also honor and protect you.

In Psalm 23, David says God wants to honor you and wants everybody to see you being honored. This is a banquet at an unlikely time—not during good times but when you're under attack.

Therefore, it's important to understand who your enemies are and the extent of the honor God wants to give you for trusting Him.

"You prepare a feast for me  
in the presence of my enemies."

**Psalm 23:5 (NIV)**

Q = Who's the enemy?

- The world in which we live, and the world around us are in opposition to God because the world worships and loves itself.

**1 John 2:15-17 (Common English Bible CEB)**

15 Don't love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in them.

16 Everything that is in the world—the craving for whatever the body feels, the craving for whatever the eyes see and the arrogant pride in one's possessions—is not of the Father but is of the world.

17 And the world and its cravings are passing away, but the person who does the will of God remains forever.

- Satan is and will always be against us. Satan is real and wants to defeat us in any way possible.
- Satan has a horrible plan for our lives. He hates us because God loves us.
- God loves us and still has a wonderful plan for our lives.

**1 Peter 5:8 (Tree of Life Version TLB)**

Stay alert! Watch out! Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, searching for someone to devour.

- The old nature inside of us, even though we are believers in Jesus Christ, still may be tempted by our old habits and previous sinful patterns.  
So unless we rely on God's guidance and strength, we can end up being our own worst enemies.
- We may make decisions that take us right back into sin. Paul said we fight this by trusting God and relying on Him to transform our minds so that we begin to see God's way as the only way.

**Romans 7:21-25 (Philips New Testament PNT)**

When I come up against the Law I want to do good, but in practice I do evil. My conscious mind wholeheartedly endorses the Law, yet I observe an entirely different principle at work in my nature.

This is in continual conflict with my conscious attitude, and makes me an unwilling prisoner to the law of sin and death. In my mind I am God's willing servant, but in my own nature I am bound fast, as I say, to the law of sin and death.

It is an agonizing situation, and who on earth can set me free from the clutches of my sinful nature? I thank God there is a way out through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Q = What Does The Banquet Symbolize?

"You prepare a banquet for me  
while my enemies watch.

**Psalm 23:5 (God's Word GW)**

1) God wants Fellowship with us.

- God wants to hang out with us. God wants to be our friend and for us to be His friend—He desires fellowship with us.

**Psalm 5:11 (The Message)**

"But you'll welcome us with open arms when we run for cover to you. Let the party last all night! Stand guard over our celebration."

- God says I know you're in the heat of the battle at times.
  - o You're fighting for your job
  - o You're fighting for your health
  - o You're fighting for your dignity
  - o You're fighting for your spouse and family
- While the battle is going on, hang on!!!
- God wants to throw a banquet for you to offer a little encouragement

**Song of Solomon 2:4 (Good News Translation GNT)**

He brought me to his banquet hall and raised the banner of love over me.

- If you're a child of God, your heavenly Father is proud of you. God wants your enemies to know just how much He loves you.
- When God blesses your life, critics may spite you, slander you, ignore you, ridicule you, or label you, but they can't stop God's blessings on your life because **favor isn't fair**.
- In the middle of your battles, God is gently calling you. Don't ignore God, accept God's invitation. You need God's strength and sustenance. You need His spiritual nourishment and refreshment.
- It's all laid out on the King of kings and Lord of lords table waiting for you.

2) **God wants to bless us to show the world His goodness.**

- We are Exhibit A of God's grace—God's unmerited favor

**Psalm 31:19 (NIV)**

"How abundant are the good things that you have stored up for those who fear you, that you bestow in the sight of all, on those who take refuge in you."

- "*the good things that you have stored up*" means God has done advanced planning just for His children.
- God has already prepared the victory celebration because He knows how it's going to turn out.
- All God wants us to do is keep fighting the good fight of faith.

### **1 Timothy 6:12 (NIV)**

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

- Fighting the good fight of faith means:
  - o Honor God with your life
  - o Honor God with your body
  - o Honor God in your business or occupation
  - o Honor God in the way you think
  - o Honor God in the way you talk and act.
- No matter what enemy comes against you, keep honoring God

### **Psalm 35:27 (Amplified AMP)**

"Let them shout for joy and rejoice, who favor my vindication *and* want what is right for me; Let them say continually, "Let the LORD be magnified, who delights *and* takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servant."

### 3) **What's on the Menu?**

- There are over 5,000 promises in the Bible. The promises of God is your banquet.
- Our view of the Bible and how obedient we are to the Word, will determine how much we enjoy the banquet
- The Bible is not a textbook, a history book, or an insurance policy.

- The Bible is God's love letter to us
- If we're not reading and studying the Bible, we will not know what's on the menu of God's banquet.

**Psalms 119:103 (New Century Version NCV)**

Your promises are sweet to me, sweeter than honey in my mouth!

- Are you fasting or are you feasting on God's Word? When you open the Bible don't just read it, feast on it and eat from it—internalize it.
- Keep in mind that going to church once a week is not a feast—how would you adequately survive if you ate only one meal a week?
- If you don't get nourishment on a daily basis from God's Word, you will not grow or be healthy and strong for the battles of life.

**Matthew 4:4 (English Standard Version ESV)**

"But he answered, 'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

- Start reading your Bible every day. No matter where you're sitting—in a coffee shop, library, or while transported to a destination.
- Download a Bible app on your phone or tablet. If you're not sure where to start reading, begin with the Gospel of John, or Luke, or the Psalms

"You prepare a banquet for me  
while my enemies watch.

**Psalms 23:5 (God's Word GW)**

Psalms 23:5 is both a now verse and a later verse.

- Right now, while you're in the battle, you can have a banquet any day you open the Bible.

- The Bible will give you strength and encouragement to keep moving forward.

Let's read **Isaiah 25:6-9** together:

6 On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines.

7 On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations;

8 he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken.

9 In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.

**(NIV)**