

Study for the Week: In The Presence of Mine Enemies

Background Reading:

Psalm 23; I Samuel 17:26-29, 31-36; Philippians 4:19; Ephesians 3:20; Psalm 78:18-41; II Chronicles 7:14; Romans 8:28-32; John 17:14-17; Philippians 3:17-18; I John 4:4

Day One:

David teaches us about the work of a shepherd in I Samuel 17:31-36. What enemies had David faced? What enemies do we face?

Day Two:

According to the words of Philippians 4:19 and Ephesians 3:20, to what degree is God able to meet our needs?

Day Three:

Compare Psalm 78:22 and 78:41. How do we "limit" God?

Day Four:

Read Romans 8:32. What has the Lord already done in order to prove that He will provide every need we have?

Day Five:

In John 17:14-17 the Lord Jesus is praying for His children. Why do you think it is God's will for His children to be in this wicked world?

Day Six:

I John 4:4 tells us that God's children have gained the victory over the world. How is this possible?



In The Presence of Mine Enemies

Psalm 23:5

Psalms 23:5 *Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:*

In the presence of our enemies, we are driven to God's table to take from the Lord what we must have to live.

As we read about the presence of our enemies, we are reminded that shepherding can be dangerous work.

Sheep face many dangers.

The shepherd had to guard the sheep from poisonous plants, bad water, and wild creatures.

I. The P_____ of the T_____

The word *“table”* is referring to a grazing area where sheep can find the nourishment they need.

We need to remember that it is the shepherd's responsibility to provide food for the sheep.

We often take too much upon ourselves and try to do God's part instead of our part.

God does the preparing and the blessing.

We will never have a need that He cannot provide.

Read **Philippians 4:19** and **Ephesians 3:20**.

Our God is *"able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think"*

In **Psalm 78:19**, we read that God's people provoked Him by asking, *"Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?"*

We can read the rest of **Psalm 78** and see that God proved that He was able to furnish a table for them.

Verse forty-one says, *"Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel."*

How did they limit God? They limited Him by their unbelief!

We need the faith to believe God to provide a table for us.

Read carefully **Romans 8:28-32**.

Verse **thirty-two** says that the Lord *will 'freely give us all things.'*

What did it take for God to prepare a table to meet all our needs? It took Calvary!

The Bible says, *"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all...."*

Christ has prepared a table that provides all our needs.

We dine at His table only by faith.

II. The P_____ of the E_____

We are seated at the Lord's table only as we are willing to rest in Him.

What makes us trust Him and desire to come to Him?

The presence of our enemies makes us come to Him.

The enemies we face are real enemies.

We face the world, the flesh, and the Devil.

God uses these enemies as tools to cause us to trust Him. Read **John 17:14-17**.

It is not God's will to take His children out of this world.

He leaves us in the presence of our enemies.

This causes us to trust Him and allows us to be a witness.

Naturally, we want all our enemies removed.

But this is not how God works.

God did not remove Pharoah from before Moses.

He did not remove the fiery furnace from the Hebrew children.

He did not remove the lions from Daniel.

God says, *"You are going to stand in the presence of your enemies, but I am going to stand with you."*

We want to participate in the partaking of the table without the presence of the enemies.

However, the presence of the enemies causes the sheep to stay close to the Shepherd.

Many Christians live such weak, anemic Christian lives because they will not come to God's table by faith.

May God help us to trust Him for all He has prepared for us.