**Psalm 23:1-6**

**Thou anointest my head with oil**

**Psalms 23:5 -- “**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: **thou aniontest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.”**

David begins this Psalm with the statement “The LORD is my shepherd!” (**Psalm 23:1**) Everything else he says flows from this opening statement.

David testifies of green pastures and still waters – describing the peace, comfort, and satisfaction of God's salvation. (**Psalm 23:2**)

He also testifies of God’s restoration - “He restoreth my soul!” (**Psalm 23:3**) and the Shepherd’s leadership into “the paths of righteousness for his name sake.”

During times when he was being led by his Shepherd, David also spoke of the times in his life when there was darkness and shadows – when he was being squeezed in on every side – when there were times he felt the shadow of death over him. (**Psalm 23:4**)

In **Psalm 23:5**, David tells us that his Shepherd did not forsake him during the times he was surrounded by his enemies.

From this we learned: God Himself is involved is setting our table!

Our table is prepared by our Shepherd, the Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Our table is prepared in the midst and in the presence of our enemies.

Our table is prepared for our spiritual health and enjoyment.

**Psalms 23: 5** -- “Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: **thou aniontest my head with oil; my cup runneth over**.”

**Thou anointest my head** --

The word anointed may be defined in a literal sense as: to make fat or regard as fat -- to satisfy – to accept -- to remove ashes of mourning and replace with the oil of refreshment.

**But, since Psalm 23 is poetry, this word is used figuratively of Spiritual Prosperity.**

It also refers to the joy and gladness that rises in the heart of a true believer who experiences the blessings of His God in his life.

It refers to our God making our soul “fat” with His liberal, spiritual blessings.

It refers to gospel blessings which come upon the believer:

**Isaiah 61:1-3** – “(1) The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; (2) To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; (3) To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, **to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning**, **the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness**; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.”

E**specially verse 3** -- To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, **to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness**; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.”

**First - True Christians – the Lord’s Sheep - begin their spiritual life as those sitting in the ash heap of their ruined life and calling upon the Lord Jesus Christ to save them!**

**Note**: **The ashes – the mourning – the spirit of heaviness** in this **Isaiah 61:3** refers:

1 - To the knowledge that we have sinned against God

2 - To the mourning over our sin and over the justice we know we deserve for sinning against the Holy God

3 - To the broken heart of one who repents before the Lord.

Repentance is the duty of all sinners because it is the command of God toward all men – **Acts 17:30** – “… God … commandeth all men every where to repent:”

Repentance is the duty of every sinner because the gospel message declares it - **Luke 24:47** – “And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

**Acts 3:19** – “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;”

Repentance is always joined together with faith - **Mark 1:15** – “And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”

**Note**: The beauty, oil, and garment in Isaiah 61:3 all refer to the work of God in our salvation.

Our ugly sin is replaced with the beauty of His holiness in salvation.

Our ashes of repentance are replaced with the oil of gladness.

Our filthy rages of self-righteousness are replaced with the garments of praise and the robe of righteousness in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Second – True Christians – the Sheep - continue their Christian life with greater blessings bestowed upon them – with a continual supply of anointing oil from our God.**

**The oil of God’s blessings in the midst of our enemies (Psalm 23:5) and in the midst of our trials - Psalms 66:10 and 12** --”(10) Thou broughtest us into the net … (12) thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place” (a place of satisfaction and contentment)

**The oil of God’s blessings in His house - Psalms 36:7-8** – “(7) How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. (8) **They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house**; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.”

Are you satisfied with the house of God? Does coming to the house of God make you realize how blessed you are? In coming to the house of God, are you made “fat” and “prosperous” in the blessings of God?

**Oil – The oil of divine refreshment** –

**Psalm 63:3-5** – “(3) Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. (4) Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name. (5) **My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness**; and **my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips**”

The natural result of being continually anointed by our God is worship! Our lips and our mouths praise Him!

**The oil of divine prosperity** -- He makes my soul “fat”. God is not stingy with his blessing upon the children of God! He is liberal with abundance of blessings!

**Psalms 84:11** – “For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory**: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly**.”

**The oil of Divine gladness** **– the** **Divine refreshing of the soul makes us glad in the things of our God and glad with our God.**

**Psalms 21:6** -- “thou has made me **exceeding glad** with thy countenance”

**Psalms 30:11** -- “... thou hast put off my sackcloth and girded me with **gladness**.”

**Psalms 46:4** -- There is a river, the streams whereof **make glad** the city of God”

**Isaiah 61:3** -- “the **oil of joy** for mourning”

My sin, guilt, shame, and condemnation are all removed and in their place the oil of gladness for forgiveness of sins, justification before the holy God, reconciliation between enemies, the redemption of poor lost and undone slaves of sin, and adoption into the family of God.

**This oil results in the rejoicing to the soul –**

**Proverbs 27: 9** – (as) “Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart...” – (so) the blessings of God rejoice our hearts of his people.

**This oil exhilarates the soul and stirs it up to new life and revival --**

**Psalms 92:10** -- “I shall be anointed with fresh oil”

**John Gill** – “…”oil” often signifies the Spirit of God, his gifts and graces; and “fresh oil” may intend new supplies of his grace out of the fulness of it …”

**This oil is the oil of Divine love**

**Jeremiah 31:3** – “The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, **Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love …**”

And the **Divine favor** upon undeserving souls **–** “... **therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee**.” (**Jeremiah 31:3)**

**Note**: **The anointing with oil teaches us that God gives Himself to His children.**

**Ephesians 3:19** – “And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, t**hat ye might be filled with all the fulness of God**.”

**John 1:16** – “And of **his fulness have all we received**, and grace for grace.”

Our God is:

Full of grace and truth -- **John 1:14** – “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

Full of love -- **Ephesians 2:4** – “But God, who is rich in mercy, for **his great love wherewith he loved us**,”

Full of compassion - **Psalms 86: 15** -- “But thou, O LORD, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.”

Full mercy - **Psalms 119: 64** -- “The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy...”

Full of wisdom – **I Corinthians 1: 30** – “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption”

Full of kindness – **Psalms 117: 2** – “For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD.”

Full of goodness -**Psalms 33: 5** -- “... the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD”

Full of righteousness -**Psalms 48: 10** -- “... thy right hand is full of righteousness.”

**My cup runneth over --**

**It runs over with the spiritual blessings of God.** It may not run over with the physical blessing of God, but it will always run over with the spiritual blessings of God.

Not just enough but more than enough!

**It runs over with spiritual blessings for my benefit.** Not because of any merit in myself but out of the goodness and grace of the One bestowing it

**It runs over for the good of others**.

**John 7:37-39** – “(37) In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. (38) He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (39) (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”