The Promise of Provision
Welcome to Harvest Community Church
Series: Psalm 23
Text: Psalm 23:1-5a

When we study the Scriptures, it is vital to understand the context in which a passage is written. In order to better understand David's words in Psalm 23:5, we need to back up and read verse 4, which says, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

David was describing a very challenging season. Circumstances and situations had become so dark that he compared them to "the valley of the shadow of death." Even in the midst of this dreadful time, David recognized and declared the Lord's faithful provision: "You prepare a table (feast) before me in the presence of my enemies". Regardless of how distressed or desperate our situation may be, we have God's guarantee of supernatural prosperity. Somehow and someway, He will move heaven and earth to make sure we have what we need when we need it.

Enemies represent a threat. An enemy is not a true enemy unless they can and intend to do you harm. An enemy could be a person with ulterior motives who is conspiring against you or an overwhelming situation that appears to be your demise in some area. David was well acquainted with such enemies throughout his life, and when you read through the book of Psalms, this reality becomes clear. Even for Christians, flesh and blood enemies are a clear and present danger, not just the enemy of our souls.
Psalm 5:8, Psalm 6:7 & 10, Psalm 7:6, Psalm 7:15-16
The Bible never denies the reality of enemies. David, Paul and even Jesus had them.

The fact that David mentions the topic of enemies so frequently is a clear indicator of what was dominating his thoughts…and prayers. David responded in faith to what was overwhelming his mind.
Psalm 18:1-8, 17-19, 24-27, 30-38, 47-48 (NLT), Psalm 25:2 &19, Psalm 27:2 & 6

Even though David was experiencing one attack after another, he trusted in the Lord to deliver him from the hand of his enemies. In humility, David asked God to teach him, and in faith he declared victory over his adversaries.
Psalm 27:11-12, Psalm 31:7-8, Psalm 40:2, Psalm 41:2& 11

David prayed that his enemies would be swallowed by the very trap they had set for him. It is ok to expect that God will let the plans that the enemy has for us to backfire on them. **Psalm 57:6, Psalm 59:1** Remember, we serve a Savior that knows how to flip tables. The Bible never denies the fact that weapons will be formed against us, the promise is that they will not prosper.
Isaiah 54:17

One thing David never seemed to be concerned with was the thought of praying too much. His psalms clearly demonstrate — centuries in advance — Jesus' instruction to us to keep asking, seeking, and knocking until the request is fulfilled. **Matthew 7:7-11**

David's confidence in God's faithfulness to rescue him and execute justice on the wicked continually flowed from his lips. **Psalm 61:3, Psalm 64:1, Psalm 71:13, Psalm 91:3, Psalm 107:2, Psalm 108:12-13, Psalm 118:5-6 & 13**

Throughout his writings, David recognized God as the One who revives, the One who makes a way of escape, and the One who delivers. He repeatedly and unashamedly appealed to God to bring retribution against his enemies.
Romans 12:19, Psalm 109:29, Psalm 138:7, Psalm 140:9 & 12, Psalm 144:6

These verses from the book of Psalms are a mere sampling of all the passages that deal with adversaries, deliverance, and vengeance on the wicked. Without a doubt, David was thoroughly familiar with the subject. God promises both a feast in the presence of our enemies and peace.
Proverbs 16:7, Psalm 91:7-8 (AMP)

There are two stories in the Bible where God gives us a vivid illustration of how God will care for us even in the presence of our enemies.

- The first is from David – King Saul was trying to find David and kill him. David found himself in the very heartland of the Philistines. **1 Samuel 21:10-12** David had been handpicked by God and anointed as king of Israel. He was being hunted down by the man God had rejected — King Saul. Suddenly David is standing before King Achish, the king of the Philistine city of Gath, where Goliath came from. Now David took matters into his own hands, he developed a strategy. **1 Samuel 21:13-15**
  David played insane. It is said that when he pretended to scribble on the gate of the town that he was making the Hebrew letter "tau" or the letter "t" which forms the sign of the cross. The entire time David was in the territory of his enemies, God took care of him. Not only did He protect David, but He also fed him literally in the presence of his enemies.

- The second is from the life of Elijah. After being the leader of an unprecedented move of God and witnessing the extermination of 450 wicked prophets of Baal, Elijah received a death threat from Queen Jezebel and ran for his life into the wilderness. There he sat under a lone juniper tree, hopeless, exhausted, and totally depleted. **1 Kings 19:4-6**
  The depth of Elijah's depression was so severe that he fell right back to sleep. He was so depleted that a single serving of this supernatural food wasn't sufficient to replenish him. God will make sure that you have all the nourishment that you need. This is how a Shepherd cares for the sheep. **1 Kings 19:7-8**
  Just as God did for David when he was surrounded by enemies, He also did for Elijah. The Lord literally set a table of food and drink in front of him when he was being hunted down by Jezebel. It was a divine replenishment that invigorated his body, mind, and spirit. Dealing with enemies can take a lot out of you but God promises to fill you up right in front of them.

When you encounter enemies during your journey, you must learn to look for the table that your Shepherd has prepared for you. You don't have to wait for them to leave — God will give you a feast even in the presence of your enemies.