

## God's Promise of Friendship and Protection – Part One

*Thou Preparest a Table Before Me in the Presence of Mine Enemies*

*Thou Anointest My Head with Oil; My Cup Runneth Over*

How comforting that our Great Shepherd goes before us in this life and the next; that He knows our needs and has already made provision for us. He is ready for anything and everything because He is the author of our lives. "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb."

*Psalm 139:13* He created us and we are His, "Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture." *Psalm 100:3*

So, if God made us and we are His, then He wanted us and planned to provide for us. He goes before us into every situation.

**Study Questions** – *begin with prayer and ask God to open your heart and mind. Be honest with yourself and with God. There are no right or wrong answers.*

1. "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies..." What does that mean to you?

Read: Psalm 65:11, Psalm 68:10

2. What pleasures might be contained in a "bountifully laden table" in your life?

3. What dangers might be hiding in all of this bounty?

Read: Psalm 119:105

4. How can we be made aware of these dangers?

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5. What last tempted you from life's table; from the table of worldly pleasures?

6. Tell of a time when you were caught by surprise by one of these hidden dangers.

7. Why didn't you see it coming?

Read: Matthew 24:41

8. (*Personal*) Tell of a time when you knowingly sampled one of these dangers?

9. What was the end result?

Read: Deuteronomy 28, Leviticus 26, Joshua 24:15

10. Why did God let you go there?

Read: Psalm 73:28, Hebrew 10:22

11. How can you be sure you're safe?

Questions designated as "Personal" are designed to generate an intimate answer. No one will be called upon to share, but you may volunteer to share your answer. It may be that your response will be a blessing to someone else in your group

Read: Psalm 130:5

12. How do we “draw near” and stay close to God?

13. Why don't you do this all the time?

Read: 2 Corinthians 8:9, Philippians 2:7

14. How can God relate to our weakness?

Read: 1 Corinthians 10:13, Psalm 62:5, 2 Corinthians 3:4-5, 1 Peter 5:10

15. Has your “Christian walk” been easy? Why or why not?

Read: John 3:16

16. What did it cost God to prepare this “table” for us?

17. What makes you deserving of this gift from God?

Read: Romans 7:18 and 24, 1 Corinthians 5:7, Hebrews 9:28

18. In a self-centered world, how do you relate to God's love and self-sacrifice?

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19. This week, how will you seek to walk in the ways of holiness, selflessness, and contentment in His care?

20. What will you do to be aware of His presence and enjoy the intimacy of His companionship?

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