

**AVELEIGH'S SEASON OF INSPIRATION**

**FEB. 24 2019**

**SERMON: THE BIBLE IS THE BANQUET**

Texts: Is 25:6-9 p. 758 & Psalm 23:5 p. 592

All to Worship

One: This is the day our God is making.

All: Let us rejoice. Christ is The Good Shepherd.

One: This is the time when God is present.

All: Let us be open. Christ is The Good Shepherd.

One: This is the moment when forgiveness flows and life is renewed.

All: Let us sing of the Great Banquet Christ our Good Shepherd set before us now.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you are our Good Shepherd.. We confess that, in the light of your purity, we see our own impurities. We truly have fallen short of the expectations you have of us. Forgive us. In the name of Christ who died to reconcile us to you, please come to our aid. Lead us from the paths of disaster, and direct us toward holiness. Teach us to pray as the saints have prayed. Teach us to love as the godly have loved. And teach us to serve without counting the cost as your true servants have done throughout time. Most of all, grant us the courage to dare to be Christians in reality rather than in pretense, however difficult it may be. In Christ's name. Amen.

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### SERMON: THE BIBLE IS THE BANQUET

Texts: Is 25:6-9 p. 758 & Psalm 23:5

#### PART ONE: WHAT KIND OF BANQUET IS THIS?

- God Is The Host.
- This Is Well-Planned. "Prepared"  
"You prepare a table..." שולחן = shulchan
- I Am The Guest Of Honor. "For me"
- It's In Public, Not In Secret. "In front of"
- The Banquet Is On A Battlefield. "my enemies"

#### PART TWO: ENEMIES?, WHAT FORCES OPPOSE GOD'S BEST FOR ME?

". the world, the flesh and the devil."

##### 1. THE WORLD AROUND US.

"Do not love the world or all the things in the world. If you love what the world offers, it shows the Father's is not in you. For everything the world values — doing anything that feels good and indulging every lust, being driven by greed to always want more, and the prideful pretending to impress others, does not come from God. The world, and all the things people think are important are actually passing away, but the person who does what God says will live forever."

1 John 2:15-17

##### 2. SATAN IS AGAINST US.

"Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, who is your great enemy."

1 Peter 5:8 (TLB)

"Our fight is not really against people on earth . . . but against the forces of evil in the spiritual world."

Ephesians 6:12

##### 3. MY OLD NATURE INSIDE US.

Paul ". . . Inside me, my old nature is at war with my new mind, which wants to do what's right. But my old self fights back and keeps me struggling with my old patterns and sins."

Romans 7:23

## **PART THREE: WHAT DOES THIS BANQUET SYMBOLIZE?**

### **1. GOD WANTS AND WELCOMES FELLOWSHIP WITH US.**

“You welcome us with open arms when we run for cover to you. Let the party last all night! Stand guard over our celebration.” Psalm 5:11 (The Message)

“God is gently calling you from the jaws of distress to an open place of freedom where he has set your table full of the best food!” Job 36:16 (NCV)

### **2. GOD WANTS TO BLESS US TO SHOW THE WORLD HIS**

**GOODNESS.** “Your goodness is so great! You have stored up great blessings for those who honor you. You have done so much for those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world.” Psalm 31:19

## **CONCLUSION: WHAT’S ON THE MENU?**

### **EVERYTHING GOD PROMISES IN HIS WORD**

#### **ONE DAY: THE GREATEST BANQUET OF ALL!**

“The Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of the finest food for all peoples, a banquet of the best of meats and finest wines. And on this mountain, God will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, and the sheet that covers all nations. He will swallow up death forever! The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; and he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. And in that day, they will say, ‘Surely this is our God! We trusted in him, and he saved us! Yes, this is the Lord, we trusted in him! So, let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation!’” Isaiah 25:6-9 (NIV)

**PRAYER: GOOD SHEPHERD, YOU ARE MY GOOD SHEPHERD. YOUR WORD IS THE GREAT BANQUET. MAY WE ALL BE FILLED. AMEN**

**FOUR FOR THE ROAD:** 1. God loves the people of the world, but hates the world’s value system, which is anti-God and materialistic. How does the truth that God overcame the world, give us the strength to deal with the trials, tribulations, distress and frustrations of life?

2. Satan, a powerful enemy, uses clever tricks and tactics to attack God’s children. Using deception, distraction, and discouragement, Satan manipulates our insecurities and plays to our fears. How can we find strength and protection in God’s Word to recognize Satan’s tricks and protect ourselves from this powerful enemy?

3. List some of the ways a person can be their own biggest enemy. Knowing these, why does the devil need to do very little to distance us from God? Where else do people put their trust other than in God? When hearts stray away from God and his ways, how does God call us back to himself?

4. The table symbolizes fellowship with God and his approval. In this life where our well-being is constantly threatened with adversaries in the land where we live and work, why does the table offer hope? Against the backdrop of the wicked, how does God’s fellowship and acceptance give us peace and encouragement?