

The Anointed Sheep

Greetings everyone,

Most of us know and have heard the passage of scripture in Psalms 23, "The Good Shepherd." Much of that scripture is relatable to us, but there is one part I want to focus on in sharing with you that is not so easy to understand unless you are an actual real life shepherd. That is verse five, which says, "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."

In the land of Israel, there is a type of fly that can cause a lot of pain and suffering to sheep. It is such a problem, that if they hear one buzzing around them they become very agitated, jumping up and down, running around in circles, and exerting so much energy that they have been known to pass out. On rare occasions, sheep have even run off a cliff and died. The shepherd knows this, and at the first sign of this problem, they anoint the sheep's head with an oil that keeps the flies away. As soon as the oil is placed on the sheep's head, it calms down and is completely without fear from the fly that moments earlier had filled it with uncontrollable terror.

If we return to Psalms 23:5, it first says, "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies." The table relating to us is an abundant and successful life, and the enemy is like the fly that brings fear to the sheep. It could be like any type of worry in our lives, whether it be finances, health, relationships, or whatever. Especially in the time I am writing this, that "fly" in some of our lives could be the Coronavirus (covid 19). God has set us up for success, even though we are among enemies. The second part of the verse says "You anoint my head with oil." Like the sheep, God puts His anointing on us so that we may live without fear that the enemy will take away our abundant and successful life (health, finances, career, relationships, etc.).

The third part of the verse says, "My cup overflows." Not only does God's anointing protect us from the enemy taking away our abundant and successful life, His blessings will overflow on us! The important message here is that if we remain in God's anointing, we need not fear that the enemy will take away anything that God has already given us. The key here is to remain in God's anointing. In thinking about this critical part, I ask myself some simple but important questions: #1. Am I spending time with God (worship, prayer, and reading His word)? #2. God has a plan for my life; am I living out that plan? #3. Have I forgiven everyone who has hurt me? and finally, #4. Am I living out the commands Jesus gave us in His Gospel (Matthew 22:37-39), "...Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,

and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself." If you are answering yes to these four questions, you need not live in fear. In fact, you should live in excitement for what God is about to do as your cup will overflow even more with God's blessings. These blessings may not always be what you think you need, but know that they will always be what God knows you need. Remain in God's anointing, and be strengthened in your faith, because God will never disappoint those who remain in Him. Remember: John 15:7, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

God Bless!

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