

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** How to Feel Good about God

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Psalm 23:5

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1367

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The devil wants us to think negatively about God.
  - i) The devil knows that if he can get us to thinking negatively about God that he can do almost anything with us that he wants.
- b) Genesis 3:1-5
  - i) The devil tried to get Eve to think negatively about God, and he's still doing that job today.
- c) People today think of God as some sort of a cosmic killjoy.
  - i) They think that every time He sees someone having a good time, He moves in to break up the party.
- d) People also think that they have to serve God in order to go to Heaven.
  - i) They don't look upon serving Him as something they want to do.
  - ii) They think it's like taking bad medicine in order to get well.
    - (1) They don't like the taste of the medicine, but they choke it down because it's the only alternative to being sick.
    - iii) We have a distorted idea of the goodness of our great God.
- e) Psalm 23:1-5
- f) In Psalm 23:5, our passage for today's message, we find much to make us feel good about God.
  - i) We have a prepared table.
    - (1) God sets the table.
    - (2) When guests are coming, we make sure the table is set just right.
      - (a) We bring out the linen tablecloth.
      - (b) No longer do we have the regular glasses, but we bring out the crystal.
      - (c) No longer do we have every day dishes, but we bring out the best china.
      - (d) We do this to honor the person who is coming.
    - (3) In Psalm 23:5, David is saying that Jehovah God has prepared a table for us.
      - (a) He loves us.
      - (b) He welcomes us.
      - (c) We are special to Him.
  - ii) "Thou anointest my head with oil."
    - (1) In very wealthy Middle Eastern homes in Bible times, a cruise of oil would be by the door.
      - (a) This would be a very expensive, perfumed ointment; and it would be for special occasions.
    - (2) When a very important guest would come into the home (perhaps a family member who had been gone a long time or someone they dearly loved and wanted to see), the host would put that ointment on the face, head, and hair of his guest.
      - (a) It would perfume and refresh the guest.
      - (b) They called it "the anointing of the head."

- (c) During the feast, this beloved guest would smell that sweet perfume and ointment that was upon his head.
- (3) Luke 7:36-48
  - (a) Simon did not show the Lord Jesus that reverence and respect.
  - (4) This anointing shows that we are very special to Him and that He loves us.
- iii) The overflowing cup
  - (1) "My cup runneth over."
  - (2) In Bible times, there were no hotels or restaurants.
    - (a) There were a few inns, but most of them were dirty and filthy; and the few that existed were crowded.
      - (i) Luke 2:7
      - (b) These inns were also expensive and, many times, very immoral.
  - (3) But there was a law in the land called the law of hospitality.
    - (a) If you were traveling and came to someone's house in the middle of the day and asked for food, it was unthinkable that the homeowner would let you go on without first feeding you.
    - (b) A stranger would be invited in and given a meal.
  - (4) If the stranger came in the evening, it would be time for him to move on after the meal.
    - (a) The homeowner would take the pitcher to refill the stranger's cup.
    - (b) If the host filled the stranger's cup only half full, this meant that he was to leave as soon as he had finished eating.
    - (c) But if the homeowner had come to really like the stranger and had even struck up a friendship with him and wanted him to stay, the host would then take the pitcher and fill his cup to the brim and just let it overflow.
      - (i) This was a way of saying that the guest was special.
      - (ii) This was an invitation to stay in the home overnight as a special guest.
  - (5) God shows hospitality to us.
    - (a) Our Jehovah is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd.
    - (b) He is our friend.
      - (i) John 15:15
      - (ii) Somebody has said that a friend is someone who knows all about you and loves you just the same.
      - (iii) It has also been said that a friend is someone who believes in you when you have ceased to believe in yourself.
      - (iv) A friend is a source of celebration when you've come to believe that there's nothing to celebrate.
      - (v) A friend is someone who comes to your side when you call and often answers even before you call.
        - 1. All of these picture the Lord Jesus Christ, the friend of sinners.

- g) Psalm 23:5 shows us that the Lord is a friend.
- 2) THE FULLNESS WE HAVE IN CHRIST (PSALM 23:5)
- a) Jesus Christ meets the deepest hungers of our hearts.
    - i) He satisfies our deepest longings.
  - b) The Bible is a continual feast from Genesis through Revelation.
    - i) There are always dinners, banquets and feasts throughout the Bible.
  - c) The Lord Jesus prepared a table of replenishment.
    - i) He performed a miracle to feed five thousand.
      - (1) Luke 9:11-17
    - ii) He prepares a table of replenishment when there is the enemy of inadequacy.
      - (1) Not just for physical needs, but for much more than that.
    - iii) There is no way to explain the feeding of the five thousand apart from God.
      - (1) What is there about your life that cannot be explained apart from God?
        - (a) This is the only part of our lives that is believable.
          - (i) If our neighbors can explain us and we're only religious like them, then we're not going to convince them.
          - (ii) But when they see God supernaturally meeting our needs and preparing for us a table of replenishment, then we will be believable.
  - d) The Lord Jesus prepares a table of restoration.
    - i) Simon Peter cursed and denied the Lord Jesus.
      - (1) John 18:16-27
    - ii) John 21:3-12
      - (1) The Lord Jesus was crucified and resurrected, and the disciples were discouraged, half-doubting and half-believing.
      - (2) Simon Peter decided to go fishing, and the others went with him.
        - (a) Jesus had told the disciples to tarry in Jerusalem until they had been endued with power from on high, but they were disobedient and had gone back to Galilee.
          - (i) Luke 24:29
      - (3) They had caught nothing, and the Lord Jesus appeared on the seashore.
      - (4) The Lord told them to cast their net on the other side of the boat.
        - (a) When they obeyed, they caught a multitude of fish.
      - (5) When Simon Peter got to the shore, the Lord had prepared a table.
        - (a) Jesus said, "Come and dine."
    - iii) This was a table of replenishment and restoration.
      - (1) The Lord Jesus also invites us to come and dine.
  - e) The Lord Jesus prepares a table of remembrance and redemption.
    - i) Just before He was crucified, He sat down with the disciples at the Passover feast and broke bread with them.

- (1) The Lord was the host at that table.
  - ii) Luke 22:19
  - iii) We can sit down and feast at the table that He has prepared for us.
  - iv) The best table is yet to come.
    - (1) Matthew 26:29
    - (2) This will be at the marriage supper of the Lamb.
      - (a) Our Lord who is preparing a table is also preparing a feast.
        - (i) One day, we will sit at that table.
  - v) 2 Peter 3:9
  - vi) One day, our Lord will come again, and we'll be swept up to meet Him in the air and will sit down at that table.
  - f) The Bible doesn't describe our salvation as a funeral but as a feast.
- 3) THE FRESHNESS WE HAVE IN CHRIST (PSALM 23:5)
- a) "Thou anointest my head with oil."
    - i) This was to refresh.
  - b) Psalm 92:10
  - c) Psalm 45:7
    - i) God anoints us with fresh oil and the oil of gladness.
    - ii) There ought to be an oil of gladness about serving the Lord.
  - d) Lamentations 3:22-23
    - i) His mercies are new every morning.
    - ii) Every morning, He anoints us with fresh oil.
  - e) There is a freshness in Christ.
    - i) Some things get old, but He just gets better.
    - ii) He becomes sweeter and more real.
    - iii) He satisfies every need.
- 4) THE FREENESS WE HAVE IN CHRIST (PSALM 23:5)
- a) "My cup runneth over."
    - i) He gives so freely and lavishly.
  - b) God is a God of the open hand and the open heart.
    - i) God is not stingy; He does not hold back.
  - c) John 10:10
    - i) Not only does He add years to our life, but He also adds life to our years.
    - ii) It's abundant life.
      - (1) He gives in abundance.
        - (a) John 2:1-10
          - (i) When Jesus turned the water into wine, scholars tell us that He made 120 gallons of the best wine that day.
          - (ii) They didn't need that much; He gave in abundance.
        - (b) John 6:5-13
          - (i) After Jesus had fed the five thousand, there were twelve basketfuls left over.

- (ii) Our cup runs over.
- (c) He speaks of peace, but not just peace; peace that passes understanding.
  - (i) Philippians 4:7
- (d) He speaks of joy, but not just joy; joy unspeakable and full of glory.
  - (i) 1 Peter 1:8
- (e) Luke 15:11-32
  - (i) When the prodigal son returned, the father didn't kill a chicken or just any calf, but the fatted calf.
  - (ii) He put the best robe on the prodigal son.
    - 1. He is not talking here about necessity but luxury.
    - 2. This is out of His infinite goodness and fullness.
  - (2) Our God keeps on giving and giving and giving.
  - (3) God doesn't measure His blessings drop by drop; our cup runs over.
- d) Matthew 10:8
  - i) Freely we have received, freely give.
- e) Luke 12:16-21
  - i) We should not be as the man in this parable.
    - (1) We have freely received; we should freely give.
    - (2) Let the cup run over, and let it be a blessing to someone else.

## 5) CONCLUSION

- a) Psalm 84:11
- b) Our God is a good God.
- c) Do you know the Lord Jesus personally? Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?
  - i) You can today.
- d) Pray to Him now, and ask Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16