

My Shepherd...PROVIDES

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*The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me. Your rod and Your staff they comfort me. **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows.***

Psalm 23:1-5

I. WHAT OUR SHEPHERD PROVIDES

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows Psalm 23:5

A Table Prepared

Anointing with Oil

An Overflowing Cup

II. HOW OUR SHEPHERD PROVIDES

Bountifully (2 Corinthians 9:6-15—note the superlatives!)

In His Timing

Boldly (In the presence of my enemies)

According to His Glory: (Psalm 23:3---For His Name's sake)

Ultimately through Jesus and the Gospel: (Romans 8:31-32)

III. EVIDENCE THAT WE KNOW OUR SHEPHERD PROVIDES

Gratitude

Joyful Obedience

Courage!

Result: We get God's goodness, He gets the Glory

For Further Study

1. God loves to bountifully provide for His people. Here are three passages that focus on God's provision—note especially the extent to which God provides: **2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Philippians 4:10-19; Psalm 136.**
2. The extravagance of God's provision is clearly presented in the depictions of heaven. God often uses the imagery of a feast, a great banquet, a celebration to describe His time with His people. Heaven is described as a place that God has carefully prepared for His people to enjoy them and bless them eternally. Here are some passages you can read to catch a glimpse of how your God loves to bless His people: **John 14:1-3, Isaiah 65:17-19; Revelation 21:1-22:5; Psalm 16:11, Isaiah 25:6-8, Revelation 19:9; Luke 22:28-30.**
3. In **John 10:10-18**, Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd, and points out several things He does for His people. How has Jesus provided for you as your Shepherd?
4. **Revelation 7:9-17** pictures Jesus as our shepherd in heaven. As you read this passage, look at the extent of Jesus' reach as shepherd, and notice what He continues to do for His people in eternity. May this passage underscore the certainty we have in Jesus as our shepherd today!
5. A crucial response to God's provision in our lives is **giving thanks**. We are commanded to be thankful in **Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, and Psalm 96 and 136**. Notice what happens when we do not give thanks... see **Romans 1:18-31**, especially noting the lack of gratitude and what resulted. If your heart has not been grateful over the past few weeks, take some time to discover why. Walk through today's notes, make a list of how God has provided for you, and ask Him to soften your heart toward Him.

To Discuss... w/a friend, community group, or in your family devotional time

1. Share with your group times where God has provided for you
2. What are you trusting in your God who provides for in this season of your life? What is it about this situation that makes it hard to trust God will provide?
3. How thankful are you? How do you express thanks to God? What attitudes do you see in your life when you are regularly thanking God for what He has done for you? What attitudes surface when you are not giving thanks?