

# FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

## The Table That God Prepares February 27, 2024 Suzi Armstrong

**Psalm 23.5** says, "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows." I see a fresh anointing of the oil of Holy Spirit being poured out over the land. We are assured that Jesus will lead us in paths of righteousness for His Name's sake. And if we walk through the valley of the shadow of death – we don't need to fear because our God is with us. And He has prepared a table for us in the presence of our enemies. 'Prepare' is the Hebrew verb 'arak'. It describes arranging, ordering, and preparing. It is used to picture preparation for battle, laying out something in order, preparing a legal argument.

In the spirit I see the table that God has prepared for us – we do not need to be in fear. I see the table in our City and in our State. I see the table in your home. The table is exquisite, and it has been filled with all that we need. Great abundance fills the table – there is no lack, nothing but the best. Everything is set in order and in the proper place. Everything we need for battle is on the table that God has set. The sight of this table causes powers, principalities, and rulers of wickedness to cower. The enemy is trying to keep you from seeing your table and partaking of God's provision. But God is saying open your eyes and see! The enemy hates this table because it is provided and filled by the hand of God. Just like any banquet table, the Lord's banquet table that He sets before us is filled with the aromas and smells of what has been provided. The fragrances themselves are wonderful and satisfying. The beauty and arrangement of the table is so inviting – beckoning us to come and sit at the table and partake. This table is something to behold! It is more beautiful than the most majestic table you have ever seen in a picture.

In Moses' Tabernacle a table was set outside of the Holy of Holies where the bread was placed that was symbolic of God's provision. The Israelites tested God in the wilderness; they spoke against God and asked in unbelief, could God really set a table in the wilderness. In **1 Corinthians**, Paul tells the Believers that they cannot eat from both the Lord's table and the table of demons. Choose which table you are going to eat from. Jesus called Himself the Bread of Life. God set a table called the Last Super before Jesus was crucified. This is a prophetic picture of the table that is set before us. It is filled with the provision of the Lamb of God.

### **Song of Songs 1.12-14** TPT

<sup>12</sup> **As the king surrounded me at his table,**  
the **sweet fragrance of my praise perfume** awakened the night.

<sup>13</sup> A sachet of myrrh is my lover,  
like a tied-up bundle of myrrh resting over my heart.

<sup>14</sup> **He is like a bouquet of henna blossoms—**  
**henna plucked near the vines at the fountain of the Lamb.**

I will hold him and never let him part.

- At God's table He surrounds us with His wrap-around presence, with His glory, with His beauty and holiness – it is breath taking.
- Worship and thankfulness naturally arise and awaken your heart to deeper intimacy with our Father who loves us so much He gave His only Son.
- A sachet carries a fragrance that is sweet and life-giving.
  - The Passion Bible tells us that this bundle of myrrh is a picture of the cross and the suffering love of Jesus for His Bride – you and me. Myrrh was an embalming spice in Bible days.
  - This truth rests over your heart, opening your heart to His incredible love.

- And there at the table is the most precious and costly of all – the fountain of the Lamb of God that was slain.
- I smell the fragrance of the blood of the Lamb over us, over Detroit and over Michigan.

“Preparing a table has special meaning in the ancient culture of Israel. It was a sign of hospitality and a precursor to relationship commitments. That’s why you will often find meals associated with legal and political agreements. But in **Psalm 23**, the situation is uncharacteristically shocking. No one would think of preparing a meal in the presence of enemies. Meals are for friends and allies, not those who seek harm.

Of course, the meal that God prepares is not for the enemies. It is for the one who is in relationship with the host, God Himself. This meal is a sign that, in spite of the threat of enemies, the covenant commitment is between God and the guest at the table.” Skip Moen, 2008

### **Song of Songs 8.6-7 TPT**

**<sup>6</sup> Fasten me upon your heart as a seal of fire forevermore.**

This living, consuming flame  
will seal you as my prisoner of love.

**My passion is stronger  
than the chains of death and the grave,  
all consuming as the very flashes of fire  
from the burning heart of God.**

**Place this fierce, unrelenting fire over your entire being.**

<sup>7</sup> Rivers of pain and persecution  
will never extinguish this flame.  
Endless floods will be unable  
to quench this raging fire that burns within you.

**Everything will be consumed.**

**It will stop at nothing  
as you yield everything to this furious fire**  
until it won’t even seem to you like a sacrifice anymore.

### **2 Corinthians 2.14-16 NIV**

<sup>14</sup> But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ’s **triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere.** <sup>15</sup> For **we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ** among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. <sup>16</sup> **To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life.**

### **PRAYER AND DECLARATION:**

We add our voices with the elders and creatures worshipping around the throne and declare worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise! We bow in reverence to the Lamb of God who is in our midst, who is over Detroit and over Michigan. We thank You, Father, for the precious blood of the Lamb that takes away the sins of the world. We thank You for the table that You have set before us in the presence of our enemies and declare that it is not by our might or power to accomplish anything, but it is the power of the blood of the Lamb.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so. The hand of the Lord that redeemed us from the hand of the enemy. Let the fear of the Lord fall upon this City and this State. Let everything that has breath in this City praise the Lord and give glory to the Lamb. We proclaim the decree of the Lord: He said to me, “You are my son; today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance; the ends of the earth your possession.” Therefore, you that lead in Detroit and in Michigan, be wise and be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. For the Lord watches over Detroit and the way of the wicked will perish! God has prepared a table in the City for this time, and it is set in the presence of the enemies of Detroit.