

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 20:1-17 & Ps. 23

SINGING: 304:1-4, 7 – 123:1 - 30:1-3 – 389:5-6 – 79:1-3

THE SHEPHERD'S FAITHFUL PROVISION FOR HIS SHEEP

- I. What was this faithful provision? II. How did He provide this for His Sheep?
III. Why are the provisions made for His Sheep?

I. WHAT WAS THIS FAITHFUL PROVISION FOR HIS SHEEP?

A. David refers to it as *shepherd's preparing a table* for his sheep

1. these 'table-lands' are along the way from valley to summer ranges
2. they were not easy to reach and also required the shepherd's preparation

B. The preparation of the 'table land' was in two ways

1. The shepherd needs to remove everything that will endanger sheep
2. The shepherd would prepare by bringing supplies needed by sheep

II. HOW DID THE SHEPHERD PROVIDE THIS PROVISION FOR HIS SHEEP?

A. This preparation involved the hard work of a shepherd

B. So Jesus as Shepherd *prepared the Gospel table* at the greatest personal cost

1. From all eternity His eyes were upon His sheep (Prov. 8:22-31; Jer. 31:3)
2. Yet to prepare the Gospel Table would involve the greatest preparation

C. Let's consider the Great Shepherd's work in His preparing the 'Gospel table'

1. None of Christ's benefits came without a staggering cost
 - a. what are the benefits of this Gospel table?

b. what were the cost to prepare these benefits of the Gospel table?

2. Ponder often on this *amazing mystery of God* as revealed in Gospel.

III. WHY ARE THESE PROVISIONS MADE FOR HIS SHEEP?

A. He did this for *His own Name sake* or *because He **so** loved the world!*

1. His love remains unfathomable in cause and exercise

2. At least it is so in the eyes of such who learn to know themselves in truth.
 - a. God doesn't save the *saints but sinners*

 - b. God doesn't save the *rich in themselves but sinner stripped poor*

 - c. God doesn't save the *proud* but makes the *proud humble!*

B. He prepared this Gospel table for His sheep

1. Good Shepherd labors for the good of His sheep
 - a. therefore He sends out the invite and direction to 'eat, drink and rest'

2. What is such 'eating and drinking or resting contentedly?'

CLOSING REFLECTION: 'Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.' (Mark 5:34)

A. Are you afraid like she was after experiencing His sweet power?

B. Yet as He encouraged her to 'eat and drink' so He does to all who have come to Him for salvation.

C. Be wise and follow this daughter of Israel as she pressed forward to touch Him