

When we think we have enough, Jesus is more.

Enough is our Concordia University Texas theme for the 2023-2024 academic year.

"My cup overflows!" Now imagine that phrase in a voice to sound like Grover from Sesame Street, and I'm running around acting like I have a sloshing cup that is just spilling all over. Quite the picture, huh?

Amanda Keeter here. These are some of the lengths I go to in playing with my kids. On this occasion I was playing with Carson, my seven-year-old, in trying to memorize Psalm 23. We'd take each line and break it down to some sequence of crazy motions and voices to try and remember it. This one just always gave him the giggles.

READ

Psalm 23:5

David, the author of Psalm 23, probably didn't have this reenactment in mind when he originally wrote it. It's thought that David wrote this chapter in Psalm toward the end of his kingship and it's safe to say he had experienced a few plot twists along the way. With an early career as a shepherd, David stepped into the spotlight and slayed a notorious giant, became King of Israel, committed adultery and murder, grieved the loss of a child, AND is considered by many as the height of Israel's kingship. Having experienced tremendous highs and terrible lows, David paints the picture that through it all, God is his shepherd, and he has experienced overflowing blessings.

A few hundred years later, within David's family tree, would come one person who would be put down in the presence of his enemies. His enemies would sell his clothes, beat him up, and leave Him on a cross to die. That man is Jesus. Yet, He was the Anointed One (aka Messiah and Savior) that they killed. His life overflowed with even love for those who hated him, and those that had sinned so that He would have to die to redeem the world back to God the Father. We too were God's enemies, born into sin, yet, Christ died for us, you, and me. And now the resurrected Christ is preparing a place for us in the new heaven and new earth where His cup of love and grace will overflow on us forever.

NOTES:



¹⁰ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

¹⁴ Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. ¹⁵ And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. ¹⁶ Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. ¹⁸ I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. 20 To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.²¹ Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. ²² All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. 23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

- Mark 8:1-10

In real life, it may not always feel like we are running around like the picture I painted of Grover with a cup of joy just sloshing over. Like David, we may make mistakes or wrestle with God (read the rest of Psalms to see that he honestly talked with God and experienced all the feels). And through it all, David says his cup overflows. We can experience this too.

QUESTIONS:

1. How do you think that David was able to come to a place in his walk with God where he felt that his cup overflows?

2. Have there been times in your life that when you were walking through hard things that you still felt Jesus' presence and/or His blessings?

3. What do our interactions look like with others when we live life from a place of knowing God leads us in right paths, renews our strength, prepares a feast for us in the presence of our enemies, and our blessings aren't tied to the situation we're in?

Going Deeper

Read Psalm 23:6 together:

"Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever."

1. In light of David's history and the rest of Psalm 23, what do you think it means for David to say these words?

2. What do you think it means for God's goodness and unfailing love to pursue us all the days of our lives?

3. When you think of Jesus' life (and death and resurrection), how do you think Psalm 23 spoke to Him?



PRAYER:

Take time to pray together. You can choose to read this prayer or pray on your own. Inviteothers to share any prayer requests they might have.

Jesus, thank You for this time together. Lord, help me to see you as my Shepherd. Help me to experience your blessings. Forgive us when we can't see beyond our circumstances. Remind us of your peace, provision, and promises. **Amen.**



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