

# Feasting On God's Goodness

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Psalm 34:1-22

Introduction:

- Tonight, I want us to learn from this psalm, how to properly feast. We might think that overstuffed American bellies would hardly need any instruction on feasting. So many of us have grown so accustomed to having so much to eat. Then here comes Thanksgiving! But true feasting is about much more than the food.
- Feasting is not first about the food. It is foremost about Godward celebration. For Christians, feasting is not the same as indulgence. Finding God's goodness in every part of our lives!
- It is certainly not a sin to enjoy God's blessing of food. Genesis 9:3, Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. Often, in the Bible and throughout church history God's people celebrated with feasts. The goal, however, is always to look towards God and acknowledge His bountiful blessings

## I. We can never thank God enough v.1-7

- a. David praises God for the experience which he and others had had of his goodness (v. 1-6)
- b. Psalm 107:2 "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so..."
- c. He resolves:
  - i. That he will praise God constantly: I will bless the Lord at all times, upon all occasions. I Thess 5:18 "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."
  - ii. That he will praise him openly: His praise shall continually be in my mouth, v. 2-3. Boasting, magnifying God!
- d. There is no room for complaining, worrying, or doubting
- e. A bad attitude is like a flat tire... If you don't change it, you won't go anywhere! Life is too short, and God is too good!
- f. Acknowledging God affects even our physical bodies!- v. 5 (illustr Daniel 1)

## II. An invitation to join the feast v-8-11

- a. David found something that he wanted everyone else to experience
- b. Seeking and discovering God- (illustr-your favorite food or candy)
- c. Many people go to church only hearing about how great God is. They've only heard stories of answers to prayer. They've only learned secondhand about the abundance of grace and mercy, and power God bestows on his people
- d. Why not become an eyewitness to God's greatness? Discover and experience God for yourself!
- e. Don't be content with a hand-me-down type of walk with God!
- f. David says try for yourself! Psalm 37:25, I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.
- g. Testimony of atheist kid in Virginia
- h. Knowledge of God and his nature
- i. V. 9-10- God satisfies us.
- j. This verse reminds us that all logical, scientific, historical, proofs for God cannot move a man's heart until he allows himself to experience God's goodness.
- k. There is no argument against the goodness of God leading to converted people (Paul)
- l. Man was created for God and at the core of our being is a vacuum that only God can fill.
- m. Why do people turn to drugs, vices, sin? Idolatry is turning to someone or something for that which only God can do for me!
- n. How can I find God? There is an ancient tale from India about a young man who was seeking God. He went to a wise old sage for help. "How can I find God?" he asked the old man. The old man took him to a nearby river. Out they waded into the deep water. Soon the water was up just under their chins. Suddenly the old man seized the young man by the neck and pushed him under the water. He held the young man down until the young man was flailing the water in desperation. Another minute and he may well have drowned. Up out of the water the two of them came. The young man was coughing water from his lungs and still gasping for air. Reaching the bank he asked the man indignantly, "What did that have to do with my finding God?" The old man asked him quietly, "While you were under the water, what did you want more than anything else?" The young man thought for a minute and then answered, "I wanted air. I wanted air more than anything else?" The old man replied, "When you want God as much as you wanted air, you will find him."

- o. Many people are being starved spiritually, not because God has hidden Himself, but because they have no appetite for God!

### **III. A warning against sin- v. 13-16**

- a. That experience of God's grace and goodness will keep us from sin!
- b. Don't waste your appetite on sinful things
- c. Sin blocks the channel of blessing that God wants to give to us

#### Conclusion:

- David concludes with precious promises showing how God favors the righteous and is not pleased with the wicked
- Tomorrow as we enjoy the food, and the company, may we not forget to enjoy God and acknowledge His bountiful blessings.
- Illustr- Feasting with a sense of being overwhelmed by God- D.L. Moody's touch from God in NYC