

*You prepare a table before me . . .*

The Lord, as our Shepherd, goes before us and prepares the way. Sometimes during my morning devotional I like to allow my mind to think about what the Lord has planned for that day. I take comfort in knowing He has already gone before me. He knows the events that will happen throughout the day, the temptations I will encounter along with the joys and the sorrows. Even in these moments there is a peace of knowing that whatever the day may bring my Father is already there ready and willing to show me the way. Then I begin to think, am I looking for His guidance? Am I preparing my heart to receive what He has for me? Am I preparing myself for the attacks of the enemy? These are the type of thoughts that motivate me the most when it comes to staying close to the Father.

Keller states three things that a shepherd does when he “prepares the table” by going before the sheep. They are:

1. He removes harmful weeds or greenery that could make the sheep sick or kill them.
2. He keeps an eye out for predators or possible predators when the sheep enter.
3. He clears out the water holes, springs and drinking places.

Read Luke 22:29-34; 54-62. How did Jesus “prepare the table for Peter” in this example.

Have you ever thought about Jesus praying for you in this way? Only Jesus’ presence can prevent us from falling prey to Satan’s attacks. One of the ways He does so is by equipping us with His Spiritual armor. Read Ephesians 6:10-20 and list below how each part is a way that Jesus prepares the table for us when we are under attack.

• Belt of Truth:

• Breastplate of Righteousness:

• Shoes of the gospel of Peace:

• Shield of Faith:

• Helmet of Salvation:

• Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God:

• Prayer