THE FATHER’S TABLE

Come and dine

Luke 22:29,30 - And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom...

Most people really enjoy the holiday season. From Thanksgiving to Christmas all the way through the New Year we will find ourselves celebrating with friends and family. There is something inside of us that wants to be at home sitting around the family table. After all, there is no place like home. I believe that this is something that is part of our human makeup, part of what it means to be created in the image of God. This longing for community is actually a longing for the community that surrounds our Heavenly Father's table. What a table that must be! Can you imagine what that day will be like when we are actually in heaven, in our Father's house, sitting at our prepared place at the table of the Lord? That is what our hearts are really longing for and that is why Thanksgiving and Christmas tables are so special. Here are some thoughts from Jonathan Edwards on the Father's table.

“Heaven is the house where God dwells with his family. God is represented in Scripture as having a family; and though some of this family are now on earth, yet in so being they are abroad and not at home, but all going home: Ephesians 3:15, “Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.” Heaven is the place that God has built for himself and his children. God has many children, and the place designed for them is heaven; therefore the saints, being the children of God, are said to be of the household of God. God is represented as a householder or head of a family, and heaven is his house. Heaven is the house not only where God hath his throne, but also where he doth as it were keep his table, where his children sit down with him at his table and where they are feasted in a royal manner becoming the children of so great a King.”

What a day that will be! So this year as I celebrate from Thanksgiving through the New Year I’m going to reflect on the greatest of all celebrations that is just ahead. The marriage supper of the Lamb is being prepared, the invitations have been sent out, the table is prepared; Come and dine, the Master is calling.
I. TABLE IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES

Psa. 23:5 ¶ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

SPURGEON

When a soldier is in the presence of his enemies, if he eats at all he snatches a hasty meal, and away he hastens to the fight. But observe: “Thou preparest a table,” just as a servant does when she unfolds the damask cloth and displays the ornaments of the feast on an ordinary peaceful occasion. **Nothing is hurried, there is no confusion, no disturbance, the enemy is at the door, and yet God prepares a table, and the Christian sits down and eats as if everything were in perfect peace. Oh! the peace which Jehovah gives to his people, even in the midst of the most trying circumstances!**

II. THE BANQUETING HOUSE - HOUSE OF CELEBRATION - HOUSE OF JOY

Song 2:3 ¶ As an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. With great delight I sat in his shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

Song 2:4 He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

Song 2:5 Sustain me with raisins; refresh me with apples, for I am sick with love.
III. FEAST OF FAT THINGS - THE GOSPEL FEAST

Is. 25:6 ¶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

A. THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION

1Tim. 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:
   God was manifested in the flesh,
   Justified in the Spirit,
   Seen by angels,
   Preached among the Gentiles,
   Believed on in the world,
   Received up in glory.

B. JUSTIFICATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

I AM FORGIVEN

Rom. 1:16,17 ¶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

C. CHRIST IN YOU

Col. 1:26,27 - the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
D. HIS POWER UPON ME

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Luke 24:49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

E. HIS Precious Promises

Deut. 15:6 For the LORD your God will bless you, as he promised you, and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow, and you shall rule over many nations, but they shall not rule over you.

Deut. 11:25 No one shall be able to stand against you. The LORD your God will lay the fear of you and the dread of you on all the land that you shall tread, as he promised you.

Josh. 21:45 Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.

F. Heavenly High Priest

Heb. 8:1 ¶ Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,

G. Saved to the Uttermost

Heb. 7:25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.
H. ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER

1John 2:1,2 ¶ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

I. BAPTIZER WITH THE SPIRIT

Luke 3:21,22 ¶ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

IV. THIS IS A WEDDING FEAST

Matt. 22:4 Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.”’

Rev. 19:9 ¶ And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

V. CELEBRATION FOR THE PRODIGAL - THE STORY OF HOSEA

Luke 15:22-24 - But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.