

Family Devotion Hour #6

Family Devotion written by C.M. Gullerud

Thou art my host; for me, thy guest,

A table thou providest.

Though foes be near, I am at rest,

Thou still with me abidest. L.H. 345, Verse 5a

The gracious God, our Savior, is fully aware of our individual needs, and so also he is aware of the dangers which threaten us along the pilgrimage to the heavenly Canaan. Before we cross the Jordan, we find the Pharaohs, the Edomites, and the Moabites of this world threatening our safety and seeking to block the way for us. With their chariots and horsemen, they pursue us and, with their swords drawn and flashing in the sun, they stand in the path that extends before us. In addition to this ominous array of might and power, the voice of the enemy is speaking, either to coax us to turn back to the flesh pots of the world, which we have left, or to scare us away from facing the rigors and the hardships of the way that lies before us. They are telling us of the giants in the land. They are telling us that our enemies are greater and more powerful and more numerous than we are. They are seeking to turn us away from the leadership of those whom God has

given to shepherd us along the way. The enemy is indeed formidable and resourceful and mighty, for he has been armed with all the fiery darts of wickedness. He lies in ambush and he arises in high places and in low places. He literally swarms all over the landscape.

How are the weak and defenseless sheep going to fare in the face of the enemy? Humanly speaking, it would seem that they do not have a chance. It seems nothing but foolishness when we are instructed to say: **“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.”** A table, you say? Exactly, and the table that is spread before us just as effectual in the presence of our enemies as was the table that the Lord spread out for his children in the land of Egypt, when they were threatened by the powerful Pharaoh and all his hosts. There it was the feast of the Passover, the lamb slain and eaten according to the Word of the Lord. As the lamb was eaten, the faithful in Goshen were safe and secure while death was stalking the land, striking the firstborn from the highest to the lowest of the people. The blood of that same lamb assured them of undisturbed repose, as they reclined at the table prepared for them by the Lord in the very midst of

scenes of their slavery and in the presence of their taskmasters and persecutors.

And so also the Lord has prepared for us a table in his most holy Word – the Gospel tidings, proclaiming salvation in the blood of the Lamb of God for sinners slain. This is the table of God’s grace and mercy. This is the Word. Here he feed us with the Bread of Life; and that Bread of Life is Jesus, come down from heaven to give his body and his blood for the remission of our sins. The enemy, with his numbers and earthly power and might, scoffs at such protection; but we know that it was the Word that overcame Satan in the wilderness, when he took his stand against the Son of God. Then and there Satan sought to ruin our salvation by offers of riches and earthly glamour. Three times he was cut to root by the answer: “It is written.” There a table was spread out for us in the wilderness, by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Let us all sit down at this table and in faith let us eat and drink as the Lord serves us; and thus we need not fear our enemies, however formidable they may be. Amen.

PRAYER:

In thine arms I rest me;

Foes who would molest me

Cannot reach me here.

Tho' the earth be shaking,

Ev'ry heart be quaking,

Jesus calms my fear.

Lightning's flash and thunders crash;

Yet, tho' sin and hell assail me,

Jesus will not fail me. Amen L.H. 347: 2