

## **Family Devotion Hour #8**

Family Devotion written by C.M. Gullerud

Thou me to pastures green dost guide,  
To quiet waters lead me;  
Thy Table thou dost well provide  
And from thy hand dost feed me.  
Sin, weakness, and infirmity  
Am I; O Savior, give to me  
The cup of thy salvation. L.H. 312:2

“My cup runneth over.” Thus the picture of the table is completed. The Good Shepherd is ever watchful, in order that we may be provided with all things needful for body and soul.

The cup is used to designate what is in the cup and is used in different ways. Sometimes it is used to set forth the fierceness of the judgment of God. We read of the cup of the wine of God’s wrath; also the dregs of the cup of God’s anger; and finally, the cup of astonishment and desolation. Of this cup it is that we deserve to drink by reason of our sins. If the wages of sin were to be paid out, then we could expect only anger and judgment. But here again the goodness and grace of our heavenly Father enters to rescue us and to deliver us. He sent his

only-begotten Son into this world to drink the cup of anger and punishment in our stead. These are the words of our substitute: **“My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”** Matthew 26:42

And so it has come about that the cup of the wine of God’s wrath has been removed, and in its place has been given the cup that runneth over. This is the cup of forgiveness and pardon. Thus Jesus spoke to his disciples: **“And I confer on you a kingdom; just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom . . . ”** Luke 22:29-30 Thus the Lord speaks to us: **“The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen . . . ”** Isaiah 43:20 The invitation is extended: **“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.”** Isaiah 55:1 In answer we say: **“I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.”** Psalm 116:13 **“Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my**

**cup; you have made my lot secure.” Psalm 16:5 This indeed is a cup that runneth over. For where sin did abound, there did grace much more abound. They that receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. We have been given to drink of the king’s cup.**

**And so, as a people who are precious in his sight, the Lord has most abundantly provided also for our bodily needs. Here too he pours our cup full. We receive not the cup of wrath and desolation, but the cup of contentment, as we learn to say: “But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.” 1 Timothy 6:8 The Lord has taught us to say: “So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’” For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.” Matthew 6: 31-32 When the good deeds which flow from faith are to be pictured, the Lord does it in these words: “And if anyone gives a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.” Matthew 10:42 Here also comes the picture that was painted by Nathan,**

when he spoke to David: “. . . but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.” 2 Samuel 12:3 And so the Lord cares for us in every way.

Let us pause for a moment and consider how the Lord has poured our cup full in our Christian homes, churches, and schools. Our parents provide for our bodily and spiritual needs day by day. Our teachers train us so that we may serve our Lord and our country. Our pastors serve us with the Lord of life, in order that we may live our lives unto the Lord and that we may, by the grace of God, reach our heavenly home through our Lord Jesus Christ. Let our gratitude to all these servants of God be made know to them. Let no one get the impression that we pass this over lightly. Let your parents know, let your teachers know, let your pastor know. This will serve to lift up their spirits also at a time when they have need of encouragement from those whom they serve and whom they love. And above all, let your prayers be marked by

thanksgiving to God, from whom all blessings flow.

Amen

**PRAYER:** Heavenly Father, we thank you for filling our cup to overflowing with all the gifts that we need for this life and for the life which is to come. We need what you have to give us and we know that we have deserved nothing. But we ask you to grant them to us out of your great love and mercy. Teach us to be thankful to our parents, our teachers, and our pastors for their service in the Lord. Give them strength to fulfill the work of their calling and give us the heart to accept all things which they bring us in your name. We ask this for Jesus' sake. Amen