

Reserved

Echo Church | Week 11 | March 16, 2025 | Rich Saunders Jr.

Psalms 23:5 (NKJV)

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.

Introduction

Before we go anywhere, let's define "reserved."

- **Reserved:** To set aside or designate something for a particular purpose or person. It means marked, saved, unavailable until the right time or for the right individual.

Think about that original meaning for a second. When something is reserved, it's off the table for everyone else. It's exclusive, intentional, and has a purpose attached to it. Nobody can claim or occupy it except the person it's reserved for.

Now, bring that into a modern context. Have you ever gone to a reservation-only event? You're walking in, bypassing everyone scrambling for a seat because your name is already on the list! You don't have to hustle for a spot or ask if there's room because it's RESERVED just for you.

This is what God is showing us in Psalm 23. Everything you need, God has it reserved—for you, for your purpose, for your moment. You don't have to compete; you can't miss it. It's already done. Today we're going to unpack what it means to be reserved by God.

Point 1: "The Table is Set"

"You prepare a table before me..."

- God doesn't operate randomly. He's a God of **order**, and the table in this scripture symbolizes intentional preparation. God sees what you need before you even know to ask, and He sets it aside for you.

The table is also a place of **fellowship**. It's God's way of saying, "I don't just want to meet your needs; I want relationship with you." But here's what I really love about this verse. God doesn't ask your enemies for permission before setting your table! It's a reminder that God's provision for you is independent of other people's opinions.

Some of us are so focused on who's at someone else's table that we're missing the banquet God is setting in our honor! Stop comparing plates with others. What God has for you is custom-made and cannot fit anyone else.

Supporting Scriptures:

- **Matthew 6:31-33:** Seek first the Kingdom, and all these things will be added.
- **Philippians 4:19:** "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory..."

Relatable Moment: Have you ever walked into a cookout but didn't bring a plate? Now you're standing awkwardly in the food line, hoping you'll have enough. But then your host says, "Don't worry, I've got a whole plate for you set to the side!" That's what God is saying. "I've already set it aside. Trust me!"

Point 2: "Blessings in the Face of Adversity"

"...in the presence of my enemies."

- Here's the thing about God's blessings—they often show up when your enemies are closest. Have you ever noticed that? Some of the biggest blessings in your life were surrounded by conflict. That's not coincidence; that's strategy. God often prepares your table with your enemies watching—not to embarrass them, but to glorify His faithfulness.

This verse reminds us that God doesn't need to remove adversity to bless you. He doesn't even need to deal with your enemies before elevating you. Sometimes your enemies are part of the blessing! They keep you praying, focused, and leaning on God.

Supporting Scriptures:

- **Proverbs 16:7:** "When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him."
- **Exodus 14:13-14:** "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."

Relatable Moment: You've been there. You got the promotion, but people at work started acting funny. You finally started the business, and negativity followed you. God's saying, "Don't worry about them—I'll bless you so abundantly, they'll have no choice but to watch My favor on your life."

Point 3: "Anointed for This"

"You anoint my head with oil."

- You don't just wake up one day and walk into your calling. God anoints you for it. And the anointing isn't random; it's intentional. Oil in the Bible represents **favor, empowerment, and authority**. When God anoints you, He's equipping you with everything you need to accomplish His plan for your life.

But catch this! Oil doesn't just flow randomly. Before there's oil, there's crushing—in olives and in life. Sometimes you have to endure pressure before stepping into the anointing. Your crushing isn't wasted; it's producing something powerful.

Supporting Scriptures:

- **Isaiah 61:1:** "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me..."
- **1 Samuel 16:13:** When David was anointed with oil, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him.

Relatable Moment: Have you ever felt overwhelmed by a season of life? Maybe work feels like too much, or your family is stretching you thin. You're wondering if you'll make it. But here's the truth of the anointing—it means you're not doing it alone. God puts His power on you to do what you couldn't do by yourself!

Point 4: "Abundance is the Standard"

"My cup overflows."

- When God blesses you, He doesn't just give you "just enough." God's standard is **overflow**. Overflow represents abundance, satisfaction, and having more than you could have imagined. This isn't just about material wealth; it's about living in spiritual and emotional abundance. Your "cup" is your life, and God's saying, "I'm not just going to bless you—I'm going to overwhelm you with My goodness!"

But here's the thing. Overflow isn't just for you. When your cup overflows, people around you are supposed to get blessed too. Your life becomes a testimony of God's faithfulness. Don't hoard it; share the overflow.

Supporting Scriptures:

- **John 10:10:** "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."
- **Luke 6:38:** "...a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap."

Relatable Moment: Think about it like this. When you're driving in a storm and the windshield wipers fail, you can't see because of overflow. That's how God's goodness works in your life. It pours in so heavy that you're drenched and can't help but show others what God has done.

Closing

Family, I hope you see this now. What God has reserved for you, nobody can cancel. The table is ready. The enemies can't block it. The oil is flowing. The overflow is waiting. You are walking in promises God prepared since the beginning of time.

If you've been feeling forgotten, frustrated, or overlooked, here's the reminder you need today. God didn't forget you. Your seat at the table is still there. Your blessings are RESERVED. And when God reserves it, no devil, no hater, no obstacle can take it away. Walk in confidence this week knowing that it already belongs to you!

Final Prayer

"Lord, thank You for reserving blessings, favor, and purpose for our lives. Thank You for setting a table for us and anointing us for the work You've called us to do. Today, we walk in confidence, knowing that Your plans for us are good and overflowing. Help us to trust You more, walk boldly in our calling, and share the overflow of Your goodness. Amen."