

From **Robert Hawker's** "Poor Man's Morning And Evening Portions"

*"A certain man made a great supper, and bade many."***Luke 14:16.**

Is not this certain man designed to represent the Father of mercies, and God of all grace? And is not the great supper intended to set forth the full, generous, free, and plentiful feast made for poor sinners by Jesus Christ in his gospel? My soul! thou art invited, for the message of grace is to the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. Jesus keeps a noble house, and it is an open house. The evening is come - the hour of supper is arrived: arise then, and accept the invitation. Behold, Lord, I am come! And now what are the spiritual delicacies of thy table? First, methinks I hear the generous Lord proclaim a hearty welcome. And it is a sweet thought for my poor soul to cherish, that in whatever heart Jesus is welcome, that heart is welcome to Jesus; for as a poor hungry sinner needs a full Saviour, so a full Saviour needs a poor empty sinner to give out of his fulness upon, and grace for grace. Neither is a poor sinner more happy in receiving Jesus, than Jesus is glorified in receiving a poor sinner. "The Lord waits to be gracious." And what are the items of food at his table? "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." Here then, I find the whole of the blessed feast. Here is Jesus himself, the bread of life, and the water of life, whose flesh is meat indeed and his blood drink indeed. Here are pardon, and mercy, and peace; here is strength to help in every time of need; all grace treasured up for his people in himself, and now to be imparted as their several circumstances require. Moreover, the King himself is to come to his table. I could not be mistaken in his voice. He saith, "I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse. I have gathered my myrrh with my spice. I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey. I have drunk my wine with my milk. Eat, O friends! drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved!" What doth our Jesus mean by "his myrrh with his spices?" Doth he mean the preparing the souls of his guests for this banquet, by enduing them with the spirit of repentance and faith? or is it to set before them his own sufferings and death, "by whose stripes they are healed?" In either sense, blessed be my bountiful Lord! he is himself the provider; it is his table, and he himself furnisheth the whole of it. He is the substance, the life, the ways, the means, the end, the first and the last of all; it is all his own, and of his fulness do we all receive. And, dearest Lord! art thou pleased with thy guests, when they come at thine invitation, under a deep sense of want, earnestly desiring to partake of thy bounty, approaching under the sweet leadings of thy Holy Spirit, and clothed in the wedding garment of thine own righteousness? Oh, thou bountiful Lord! how blessed are they that sit in thine house, they will be continually praising thee! Now, my soul, thou hast eaten, and art full; arise from the holy table as one fed and filled with the Spirit; bless the kind master of the feast, and give thanks, crying out with holy Simeon, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation."

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Grace Baptist Church
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1/16/17
Call To Worship

Saved, and saved alone by grace;
Saved to see my Savior's face;
Saved from Satan's iron yoke,
And the law that I had broke.

Saved from sin, that hateful foe
That has millions plunged in woe,
Saved from all its reigning power;
Saved to serve my lusts no more.

Saved, nor can I be condemned;
Jesus Christ, the sinner's Friend,
Took my place and vengeance bore,
Me to save for evermore.

Death, nor hell, nor world, nor sin,
Foes without, nor foes within,
Ever can my soul destroy;
I am saved eternally.

(Words by William Gadsby)
(Tune: "Depth of Mercy", pg.233)

Remember In Prayer This Week:

Barbara Howard; Tyler Wheeler; Judy Ward; Cathy Cobb;
Cindy Brantly; Emily Dubose; Devonne Lewis; Dusty Adams;
Emily Gay; Lydia Headrick

Fellowship Meal NEXT SUNDAY

We usually have our church fellowship meal on the 5th Sunday of every five Sunday month. We will not be doing so this month. **Next Sunday, Jan.22**, we will have our regular services, both Sunday Bible class and Worship service. At the conclusion of the services we will have our fellowship meal. During the fellowship meal we will be having a gift card bridal shower for Zach Dyess and his wife Kate. Please make certain to be with us for this special time as we celebrate their marriage as a church family.

Happy Birthday This Week:

Zach Crain - TODAY
Zoey Warmack - Jan.16

"What A TREASURE!"

Oh how differently the grace of God makes a justified sinner view themselves before the true and living God, as opposed to the way false religious professions makes the lost moralist view themselves.. All you need to do is read the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee - "*And he spake this parable unto certain **WHICH TRUSTED IN THEMSELVES THAT THEY WERE RIGHTEOUS**, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."*(**Luke 18:9-14**)

Before the Lord revealed Himself to me and in me, I thought quite highly of myself. My stars - I was a deacon; a Sunday School teacher; a preacher; was under deep conviction after hearing LEGAL messages, walking the aisle so much I had worn a path in the carpet. I was in my mind a good son, a good father, a good husband, a good friend, a GOOD MAN. I tithed, went to church every time the doors were open, prayed long prayers, and had achieved a level of creature holiness that convinced me that the only way any other person could be saved was if they lived like me. BUT THEN, the grace of God found me in this self-righteous condition, pierced me through and through by His law, turned my heart and my mind toward "*Him who loved me and gave Himself for me*", and I was PETRIFIED with a true fear of God. Now some 28 or so years later (**I do not know nor do I care exactly what day I came to know the Lord**) I see myself every day as I ACTUALLY AM, a sinner by birth, by nature, by practice, and even by choice, still with ONLY ONE PLEA, the same plea I had when first I saw HIM with my eyes - "*God be merciful* (BE PROPITIOUS, i.e., be PERFECT SATISFACTION to God's law and justice) *to me A SINNER*"." The way this is stated, "*a sinner*", means **A SINNER STILL**. For this I owe God an infinite debt of gratitude for the fact that He would be merciful to one who is the least.

Bro.Richard