

Welcome to the Banquet

On Saturday evening we were enjoying a meal of ‘leftovers’! We had shared a lovely meal with friends the previous night; there had been so much delicious food that we couldn’t eat it all at once and had asked the waitress if we could bring the ‘leftovers’ home. So, Saturday evening brought another delicious feast and the luxury of no cooking!

That night, as I was clearing away the empty dishes, it dawned on me that we had feasted, and been satisfied, on ‘leftovers’. It occurred to me that even if God just gave us ‘leftovers’ it would still be far more than we deserve, since we cannot earn His love by our own works; yet we *can* come boldly before Him because of the work of Jesus on the cross. Through His sacrifice we can live abundant, rich lives in the midst of the good times and the tough times.

Jesus promises this *rich* and *abundant* life if we surrender all to Him and let Him lead us; He promises us a feast!

“He brought me to the banqueting house and His banner over me was love.” (Songs 2:4)

As I pondered on this, a question came to mind... how often do settle for ‘leftovers’ when actually God wants to feed us from the fullness of His banqueting table? What kind of ‘leftovers’ could we be living on?

Do we compare ourselves with others and feel we cannot match up? You are unique. God does not compare you to others and His Word tells us:

“For you formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made,” (Ps 139).

Do we struggle to forgive ourselves for past mistakes? Has that sin been confessed? Then God’s forgiveness is total, not partial:

“For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more,” (Jer 31:34).

Do past hurts colour our outlook on the future? Let God minister His healing touch:

“The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: ‘Yes I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt,’” (Jer 31:3)

Are we restrained by circumstances in which we cannot see a way forward?

“The Lord will provide the stability needed when all seems lost.” *Isiah33:5-6*

My friend, are you feasting from the banqueting table or from the ‘leftovers’? I encourage you, if you are feasting at the banquet share your plate with others, tell them about the abundant life you have in Christ. If you are feeding from the ‘leftovers’ seek God through His word and by His Spirit.

He is **so** able and willing to heal those hurts and gently lead you to feast.