Good morning, Family. This morning, we conclude our current sermon series, “Positioned on the Promises.” For it, we have focused on embracing the truth that we are called into intimate fellowship with Christ: Embracing His care, compassion, and love for us while living in full awareness of our deep need for Him. Our two readings in the Gospel of Luke today give us great insight into just how our sovereign God is personally involved with His creation, which includes each of us. Imagine with me the emotions of the disciples as they see the great need of the people and as they watch and participate in the miraculous provisions of Jesus and His Father God for them. Luke tells us that the disciples are ready to send the people away. *But Jesus!* He makes a way. In compassion, power, and authority, Jesus provides. Listen, Family. God’s source of provision here and in your life as well is His own riches (\*Philippians 4:19). There is tremendous assurance and security in this promise. The people of the loaves-and-fishes parable and we can be wholly dependent upon a dependable God. Yes, like Jesus’ followers, we can depend upon the security, peace, and belonging of the trustworthy sovereignty of our loving God.

 Christian, God’s ultimate provision and security have already been given in the Gospel. And we know that He is able and willing to supply all of our needs. He willingly and completely protects us from evil and calamity. We must preserve our relationship with Him and the salvation with which He gifts us forever; He Himself is our supply, and we trust that He is our security. Security is strongly related to trust. Too often, we look for security and peace of mind in the wrong places—wealth, politics, status, career, carnal relationships, our own intellect. We should question where we pace our trust and from where we expect security (\*\*Jeremiah 17:5, 7-8).

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\*Philippians 4;19

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

\*\*Jeremiah 17:5, 7-8

5 This is what the Lord says:

“Cursed is the one who trusts in man,

 who draws strength from mere flesh

 and whose heart turns away from the Lord.

 Listen, Church. Trees don’t wait for the wind to blow before they grow roots. We need to be rooted, established in fellowship with Christ, trusting Him, yielding fruit, secure in the foundation of our sovereign God. God gives us the Holy Spirit as a seal and pledge of our inheritance as His children. Are you living in full recognition of that seal? Secure in Christ? Living as though you belong to Him? In the parable of the foolish rich man, Luke 12:13 reminds us that too often we rely on ourselves: “Someone in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.’” The message is that the rich man should, if he believes, depend upon Christ, as Hebrews 12:2 affirms: we should be “fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

 Christian, God has given us His Word to remind us of His involvement, His car, and His genuine concern for our lives in every aspect, even our thoughts. He doesn’t reluctantly provide car for us. Like the lilies of the field, we are secure in His love. WE are His children: “9Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”(Matthew 7:9-11). Indeed, *how much more!* God graciously guides us into a greater understanding that what we need is more of Him. And He graciously provides. David writes in Psalm 61:2, “2 From the ends of the earth I call to you,/ I call as my heart grows faint;/lead me to the rock that is higher than I.”

 It is also a familiar Psalm that confirms the fullness of care of our Father God the Shepherd. The 23rd Psalm offers divine truth about the loving Shepherd who is intimately involved in His creation. It affirms the promise of His perfect presence for those who are His. The 23rd Psalm is not a lullaby or a passage reserved for the Precious Moments Bible. This is a declaration from David’s heart. It is a sermon on the provision and security found in his God. Sometimes when things become familiar, we fail to appreciate their importance. Don’t do that here. In his 23rd Psalm, David refuses to surrender on the battlefield of his mind. It is his declaration of dependence upon his Shepherd:

Psalm 23, A psalm of David.

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters,

3 he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths

 for his name’s sake.

4 Even though I walk

 through the darkest valley,[a]

I will fear no evil,

 for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

 they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me

 in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;

 my cup overflows.

6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me

 all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord

 forever.

He leads me, restores me, and sustains me, for the sake of His name. It sings of God’s faithfulness and security out of loyalty to His own character and promises. There is never a moment of neglect upon His part. He loves not out of obligation or in accordance with how “together” we are or aren’t. God provides and secures as One who possesses unending riches and strength. Christian! *Breathe.* You are loved, you can rest in the security of your Shepherd and Savior. Depend upon the dependable. Your Father has chosen to give you the Kingdom, the promise of His perfect presence. Determine, then, to seek His Kingdom first. Make the pursuit of God the primary function of your life. Each of these promises that we have discussed over these past few weeks highlight God’s faithfulness. How is yours toward Him?

Passages in support of this sermon:

Luke 12:22-32

22 Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. 24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap; they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! 25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life[a]? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

27 “Consider how the wildflowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 28 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! 29 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. 30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

32 “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

Luke 9:10-17 Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

10 When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him, and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida, 11 but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God and healed those who needed healing.

12 Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, “Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here.”

13 He replied, “You give them something to eat.”

They answered, “We have only five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all this crowd.” 14 (About five thousand men were there.)

But he said to his disciples, “Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.” 15 The disciples did so, and everyone sat down. 16 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people. 17 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.