

*"Thou Preparest A Table Before Me"*  
*Satisfaction in Forgiveness*

Introduction:

1. The journey to summer ranges...
  2. To stay and to thrive in those mountain fields, preparation had to be made.
  3. The Good Shepherd always satisfies the needs of His flock.
- I. The Shepherd Prepares
- A. In regard to a flock of sheep, the "table" refers to the mesa – the flat land or plateau on which the sheep would graze.
  - B. The shepherd removes poisonous or harmful vegetation.
  - C. The shepherd searches for signs of predators, especially vipers.
  - D. The shepherd cleans out sources of water.
  - E. Likewise, the Good Shepherd prepares the table for His sheep (cf. Luke 22:31-34).
- II. The Shepherd Forgives
- A. The sheep who had been rescued by the shepherd's staff was invited to eat at the table.
  - B. The sheep who had been disciplined by the shepherd's staff was invited to eat at the table.
  - C. The sheep who had wandered astray and had been sought out was invited to eat at the table.
  - D. The Good Shepherd will forgive His wayward, wandering sheep!
  - E. He proves this by inviting them to the table.
    1. Peter denied the Lord (Luke 22:54-62).
    2. Peter saw the resurrected Lord (John 20:1-10, 19-20).
    3. Peter went fishing (John 21:1-3).
    4. Peter was invited to the table (John 21:4-19).
- III. The Shepherd Satisfies
- A. Jesus prepared the table of communion (Luke 22:7-13).
  - B. Jesus invites all to the table (Luke 22:14-20).
  - C. Jesus communes with his sheep in the presence of their enemies (John 13:21-30).
  - D. His fellowship provides all that man needs!