

In my efforts to present the glory of God through the sacrifice of His Son, I have often had issues with those who oppose me. Though this may not always be regarded as persecution, in a similar way, our adversaries push back on our ideas and very existence. I have a difficult time sometimes knowing how to deal with this, so I pray that God directs me through His spirit to respond (especially in my words<sup>1</sup>) in a way that is effective rather than just vindictive. Focusing in my thoughts on the multitude of things God has blessed me with helps give me perspective. I want to express my feeling that I have a view of life and higher purpose that offers something that cannot be tarnished or minimized by the insults of others and their exclusion of myself. Lately I have realized that the Psalmist expressed it perfectly in these words:

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows<sup>2</sup>.*

So, I am prepared to offer this theme when confronted by an adversary whose goal is to lay upon me a crushing burden<sup>3</sup>. I will just say, "I have a table prepared before me!" Likely they will not be able to understand the power of these words, or complete the actual quote and see the ineffectualness of their power over me. It reveals the position that my adversaries occupy in my life and mission, as the strength and blessings I receive totally overwhelm the problems my adversaries present.

1. Mark 13:11 and Luke 12:11-13.
2. Psalm 23:5.
3. Further thoughts on help with our burdens are found in Matthew 11:28-30, Luke 11:46, and Galatians 6:2.