

A Dinner Surprise

Author James Herriot (a British veterinary surgeon as well as writer) tells of an unforgettable wedding anniversary he and his wife celebrated early in their marriage.

His boss had encouraged Herriot to take his wife to a fancy restaurant, but Herriot balked. He was a young veterinarian and couldn't really afford it.

"Oh, do it!" the boss insisted. "It's a special day!"

Herriot reluctantly agreed and surprised his wife with the news.

En route to the restaurant, Herriot and his wife stopped at a farm to examine a farmer's horse. Having finished the routine exam, the young vet returned to his car and drove to the restaurant, unaware that his checkbook had fallen in the mud.

After a wonderful meal, Herriot reached for his checkbook and discovered it was gone. Quite embarrassed, he tried to offer a way of making it up.

"Not to worry," the waiter replied. "Your dinner has been taken care of!" Herriot's employer had paid for the dinner in advance.

There is a spiritual lesson in this story.



God has done the same for us. Jesus' word on the cross, "It is finished," is a Greek term meaning "paid in full."

By his action, Christ took on Himself the penalty for our transgressions. That makes possible salvation and eternal fellowship with our Lord through faith in Him.

And that is something to rejoice about, enabling us to go through the peaks and valleys of life with assurance that our debt is covered.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter