

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

April 29, 2007

"What can man do to me?"

by David King

"The Lord is on my side; I will not fear.
What can man do to me?" (Psa. 118:6).

Actually, if history is any guide, others can do quite a lot to me. They can laugh at me, shun me, or slander me. They can rob me, beat me, or torture me to within an inch of my life. If they hate me enough, they can even kill me, in any one of a number of creative ways. I can be crucified, stoned, poisoned, gassed, shot, hung, beheaded, pulled apart on a rack, burned alive, or simply left to slowly starve. Oh, yes, man can do quite a lot to me.

Knowing that the world can be such a cruel place, we look for safe havens to protect us from the threats of man.

Some of us are fortunate to have strong, stable **families** to shield us from the chaos of this world. But many others do not have that advantage. And among those who do, even those families cannot shield us from every injustice. Sometimes entire families may share the same cruel fate (think of the Holocaust).

Some people put their confidence in the **government** to guarantee their security. But governments can become corrupt or be overthrown. Then what? In all too many cases, the government is the very instrument of persecution that seeks to punish us.

Others trust no one, and seek to secure their own well-being through amassing **wealth**. Surely, they think, money will buy safe passage through any threat. But as so many have learned the hard way, money can be a treacherous friend, one that often brings its own set of problems.

The Psalmist offers another source of security, one that he claims will never fail: "**The Lord** is on my side."

Think about the implications of those words. God — the One who created and sustains all things — is my champion, my defender, my friend. His position is so far beyond that of the most powerful of men that He is not even in the same league. They can only hurt me in this life; He controls what happens in the next. If God is indeed on my side, then it really doesn't matter what man may do to me. Try as they might, they cannot touch the eternal rewards that my Father has promised me.

The poet is not flippantly dismissing the awfulness of the pain that others can inflict upon me. It hurts. But compared to what God has prepared for me later, this pain is but a temporary discomfort. I can stand up against the tyrants who threaten me, and challenge them do their worst. Whatever they do, they can never overcome the One who stands beside me, and will deliver me in the end.

The challenge here, of course, is getting our minds to focus on a spiritual relationship with a Being who I cannot see, hear, or touch. That requires a disciplined approach to thinking about life and its responsibilities. If I want God on my side, then I must make the effort to be on His side in the great cosmic struggle between Good and Evil. I must respect God's word, honor Him in all I do, seek His guidance and help in fervent prayer. And I must learn what it means to love as God loves — even those who seek to do me harm.