

Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”
Isaiah 40:31*



September 9, 2012

God Cares

In the darkest days of our lives, it's easy to convince ourselves that nobody cares about us. But that gloomy outlook betrays a lack of faith in a God who really does care.

“Look on my right hand and see, for there is no one who acknowledges me; *no one cares for my soul*” (Psa. 142:4).

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, *for He cares for you*” (1 Pet. 5:6-7).

David wrote Psalm 142 “when he was in the cave,” probably the cave of Adullam (1 Sam. 22:1ff), during the years that he was running from King Saul. After his brilliant but brief career as a military hero, his new life as a fugitive was a hard blow for David to take. His lament that “there is no one who acknowledges me” was a sad departure from the glory days when he listened to the women of Israel chant, “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.” David was no longer a hero, but a cast-off, a nobody. “No one cares for my soul” captured the dark sense of abandonment that David felt.

There are countless people today who can relate to David's depression. Convinced that no one cares about them, these people trudge through life bur-

dened with an overwhelming feeling of worthlessness. The emptiness in their hearts drags down whatever ambitions or dreams they might have — after all, what's the point of trying, if no one cares one way or the other? The loneliness affects their relationships, too, as they (often unconsciously) push away the few people who might legitimately care about them. Once we become convinced that we are truly alone in this world, life loses a lot of its meaning, and it becomes more difficult to find the motivation to make it worthwhile.

But that miserable self-assessment is not based on reality. David's declaration that “no one cares for my soul” is refuted by Peter's assurance that “God cares for you.” In David's case, we know from our vantage point that, even as he was writing these words, God was carefully working out a long-term plan to bring David to the throne of Israel. It took David several years to see it, but God very much cared for him, and eventually exalted him above his peers. David's lonely cry of despair turned out to be a groundless exercise in self-pity.

David's story should serve as an encouragement to anyone who feels shut out, left out, rejected, or scorned. What other people do to us (or fail to do for us) does not influence in the slightest what God thinks of us. If a sparrow does not fall to the ground without His awareness (Matt. 10:29), surely He is familiar with our deepest anxieties and is willing to act in our behalf.

Our biggest problem is a lack of faith. Notice that Peter's promise of God's care is preceded by the caveat, “in due time.” God operates on a different timetable than we do, according to a much bigger plan than we can see, so it is unreasonable to expect Him to jump at our every whimper. God's care may not come to us in a manner that we recognize or at a time that we want, but it's there all the same. We must arm ourselves with the conviction that no matter what happens to us in this life, God really does care, and some day will make everything right.

After all, He cared enough to send His Son to die for us. Believe that, and you'll never feel lonely again.

— David King