

Pleasant Valley  
Church of Christ

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## 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)*

June 24, 2007

## Oh, to fly away!

by David King

Have you ever been so frustrated dealing with people that you wished you could just get away from everybody? If so, then Psalm 55 was written for you.

Like so many of the Psalms, this one deals with the pain of persecution inflicted by the writer's enemies. And David had many. "I am restless in my complaint, and moan noisily, because of the voice of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked; for they bring down trouble upon me, and in wrath they hate me" (v. 2-3).

But what was particularly painful in this instance was the betrayal of a close friend who had turned on him: "It is not an enemy who reproaches me; then I could bear it. . . . But it was you, a man my equal, my companion and my acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked to the house of God in the throng" (v. 12-13). The treachery of this friend had been especially hard to take: "The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords" (v. 21). David not only had to deal with enemies, now he had been stabbed in the back by a friend.

The anguish of having to deal with enemies from every direction — even from those closest to him — was more than David could bear. He was ready to give up on the human race altogether: "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest. Indeed, I would wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest" (v. 6-8).

But David knew that wasn't an option. Instead, he would continue to do what he had always done: "I will call upon God, and the Lord shall save me. Evening and morning and at noon, I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice" (v. 16-17). He was confident that eventually, the scales of justice would balance out, and his tormentors would get their due: "He has redeemed my soul in peace from the battle that was against me, for there were many against me. God will hear and afflict them" (v. 18-19). Trusting in others can be risky and disappointing, but God will never disappoint: "I will trust in You" (v. 23).

Let's face it, dealing with people in this world can be painful. Even those whom we count as friends can disappoint us. But David knew the frustration is bearable if we make the Lord the foundation of our faith, not man: "Cast your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved" (v. 23).

We do not know the exact circumstances that prompted the writing of this Psalm. There were several episodes in David's life in which he was betrayed by friends, any one of which would fit this description. But we should note that David never did give up and turn his back on humanity. He remained active and engaged, serving and helping others all the days of his life. The bitter disappointments inflicted by a few could not overwhelm David's devotion to a higher purpose, one that required that he stay in the game, no matter how difficult. His example should inspire us to do the same.