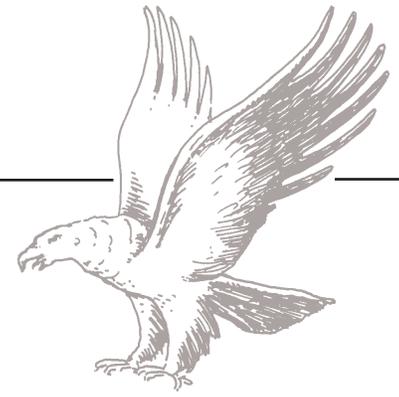


# Wings

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



December 7, 2014

## Do Not Weep for Me

Even in the shadow of a gruesome death, Jesus' mind went to the welfare of others, not Himself. How He saw the world—and His life—exposes how small our own thinking often is.

*“And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him. But Jesus, turning to them, said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, “Blessed are the barren wombs that never bore and breasts which never nursed!” Then they will begin to say to the mountains, “Fall on us!” and to the hills, “Cover us!” For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?’” (Lk. 23:27-31).*



As Jesus spoke these words, He had only a few hours to live. He had already been flogged and humiliated by the soldiers, and would shortly be nailed to a cross, the most horrible manner of execution available to Roman justice.

But in this darkest hour, Jesus was not preoccupied with His own death. Instead, He saw in His circumstances a far greater tragedy. He knew that in the future, the people of Jerusalem would suffer unspeakable horrors at the hands

of a vengeful Roman army. He could see with sharp clarity the awful suffering that would be inflicted in that day upon many of these same women and their children. It was *they* who had cause to weep, not Him.

Jesus was not indifferent to His own pain; His anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane a few hours earlier showed that. But He viewed His own experience in the context of the much wider scope of history. His life and death were merely instruments in a divine plan that began long before He was born into this world, and would extend far into the future. His duty was to fulfill His role during His brief time here, and trust God to handle the aftermath.

And what was His role? To seek and save the lost (Lk. 19:10)—including these women who wept for Him. They were unaware of the threat that loomed before them, and with this warning Jesus was trying to open their eyes. This was typical Jesus, always thinking of others, even in the shadow of the cross.

Think about this for a moment: If you or I had been in His place, would we

have paid any attention to the threat facing these bystanders? Probably not. Overwhelmed with terror at the prospect of our own impending death, we would likely give no thought to these people and their troubles. We would be weeping for ourselves, and expecting others to weep for us—the very opposite of Jesus.

Which is why we still have so much to learn from the example of our Savior. Until we can consistently—even in the face of death—see others with eyes of compassion, our lives will remain small and petty, preoccupied with our own selfish interests.

The issue here is not who gets all the attention when the drama starts. Rather, it's a failure to see our life as Jesus saw His—as a tool to be used by God for a purpose far more important than our own puny affairs. From beginning to end, Jesus' life was one of sacrifice, always giving, always sharing, always helping others, desiring no pity from others. If we wish to be disciples of Jesus, we must, like Him, seek no sympathy from others, devoting ourselves instead to their wellbeing.

– David King