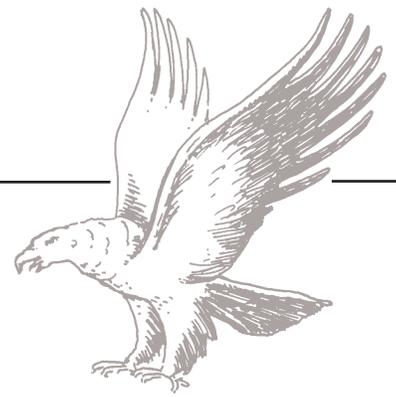


# Wings

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



March 22, 2015

## To Be a Servant

God has called us to be servants, but we tend to romanticize that into something it isn't. In fact, serving is a hard calling to live by, and not everyone can do it.

*“Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matt. 20:26-28).*



Jesus did not come to this earth to rule or to judge, but to *serve* humanity. He fulfilled that mission in every aspect of His life, even to the point of sacrificing Himself on the cross. We who are the recipients of that gift honor the life of service He gave us.

But that life of service is more than a historical figure to admire; it is a *model* for us to follow in our own lives. Everyone who claims to follow Jesus knows that, so we proudly call ourselves “servants of the Lord” and pat ourselves on the back for our humility.

It sounds noble, but I fear we're not seeing the whole picture. Many of us really have no idea what it means to be a servant. We're happy to wear the label, but have no clue what all we have signed up for.

For example, to be a servant means sacrificing my comfort, my resources, my convenience, and my time for others. It can be dirty, tiring, frustrating work with little immediate reward.

It means I will watch others having a great time while I spend my days slogging through the hard stuff.

In many cases, it means I will get little or no credit for what I do. Many of my sacrifices will pass unnoticed by others. Even those for whom I perform works of service may not appreciate what I do for them. I may be criticized and my motives questioned. In extreme cases, I might even be mistreated, abused, vilified, or shunned.

In short, when we take on the role of servants, we are consigning ourselves to a life of real hardship. There's nothing noble about it.

So why on earth would anyone deliberately choose to live this kind of life? The primary reason is the same as what motivated Jesus: because God wants us to. He has promised that the sacrifices we make now will be compensated in the hereafter, but that's second-

ary to the deep respect we have for the will of God here and now. We trust Him to know what's best for us; that's what He's told us to do, so we do it.

But it's not blind obedience. We see in the life of Jesus not just service to God, but service rendered in our behalf. We have *personally* benefited from His service; so our service is a living expression of gratitude for what He did for us.

Finally, there is a deep psychological benefit to approaching life in this fashion. Those who commit to this way of life find in it a sense of purpose that can be experienced in no other way.

Even so, most of us are far too comfortable to be legitimately called “servants.” We live like kings—and have every intention of keeping it that way. Our sacrifices are mere tokens, and the “hardships” we claim to endure make a mockery of what our Savior went through. Our service is often little more than an charade that bears little resemblance to the original example.

We can do better—and *must* do better if we really want to follow our Master's example.

— David King