

Sacrifice and Security

Here is a great story a friend sent this week!

After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree.

Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise.

She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze had arrived and the heat had singed her small body, the mother had remained steadfast. Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live.

"He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust"

(Psalms 91:4).

This story really brings home the fact that I am alive in Christ because of the great sacrifice that Christ made for me. This sacrifice was greater than we will ever know. Also, I don't think we realize the security we have in Christ. When the forest fires of life flame up around me, I know that the Lord lovingly spreads His wings over me. What a great protector and provider we have in Christ!

As most of you know I got remarried the last weekend. We had a great wedding and reception. The honeymoon was even better. This is what I want to share with you. You know that I lost Martha to cancer last Nov. Since then I had been living as a single man, knowing how nice it is to have someone to care about you, to have someone to love and hold, but not having those pleasure any more. Until now. I can not communicate to depths of joy that Marty brings me in all of these areas. Can I

just say that if you are married and your joy for your spouse is a little dry, please, please find a way to appreciate them. You do not know what you have until you lose it. Try to imagine if the Lord took your spouse home today, how you would feel. What would you regret not doing? What would you wish you had done differently? Believe me, the most important of all these is just not being alone. It is such a gift from God to just not be alone. We all will struggle with difficulties in marriage and with frustration, but believe me; they are small in comparison.

Love your spouse and appreciate them. Take time, right now, to call them or tell them how much you love them. Man, it is awesome to be married. Thanks be to God for spouses. What a wonderful gift couplehood is!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Prov. 31:10-12

"An excellent wife, who can find. For her worth is far above jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life."