

Isaiah 40:31

But those who wait on the LORD

Shall renew their strength;

They shall mount up with wings like eagles,

They shall run and not be weary,

They shall walk and not faint.

As we go through the times that are occurring here on Earth, maybe in our busy lives we should spend real time with the One who is and was and is to come?

We are busy people, but we need to remember and be reminded who is with us at all times and our choices in life are to include spending more time with Him. Our priorities have changed over the years. Let me read this to you. It is called, "Funny Things."

- ❖ Funny how a \$10.00 note looks so big when you take it to church, but so small when you take it to the shopping centre.
- ❖ Funny how long an hour serving God feels and how short 60 minutes are when spent playing golf, fishing or shopping.

- ❖ Funny how we get thrilled when a football game goes into overtime, but we complain when a sermon is longer than the regular time.
- ❖ Funny how laborious it is to read a chapter in the Bible and how easy it is to read 200-300 pages of a best-selling novel.
- ❖ Funny how we believe what newspapers say, but question what the Bible says.
- ❖ Funny how people scramble to get a front seat at any game, but scramble to get a back seat at a church service.
- ❖ Funny how we cannot fit a Gospel meeting into our schedule with our yearly planner, but we can schedule for other events at a moment's notice.
- ❖ Funny how we need 2 or 3 weeks to fit a church event into our schedule, but can adjust it for a social event at the last minute.
- ❖ Funny how much difficulty some have learning a simple bit of the Gospel well enough to tell others, but how simple it is for the same people to understand and explain gossip about someone else.
- ❖ Funny how we can't think of anything to say when we pray, and don't have any difficulty thinking of things to talk about to a friend.

- ❖ Funny how we are so quick to take direction from a total stranger when we are lost, but are hesitant to take God's direction to be found.
- ❖ Funny how people are so consumed with what others think about them rather than what God thinks about them.
- ❖ Funny how so many churchgoers sing "Standing on the Promises" but all they do is sit on the premises.
- ❖ Funny how people think that they can get more accomplished in a lifetime without God than in an hour with Him.
- ❖ Funny how everyone wants to go to heaven, provided they don't have to believe, or to think, or to say, or to do anything.

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They shall mount up with wings like eagles,

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When I started going to church, I went for the wrong reasons. I went to be with a woman that I wanted to be with. Not to hear the Word. All of the funny things we just read were true. My priorities were right along those lines.

Then I made a commitment and asked Jesus into my heart and I started to realize what a relationship with God through Jesus Christ was all about. That was almost 13 years ago and I am still learning. How about you?

Our Scripture passage for this morning--this gift from God--is about us. It's about God and what God does with us when all we seem to be is down.

Isaiah writes to the Babylonian Exiles; Isaiah writes to you; Isaiah writes to me: *"Look up at the sky and consider: Who created these? The one who brings out their attendants one by one, summoning each by name. Because of God's great strength and mighty power, not one is missing. Why do you say... 'My way is hidden from the Lord my God ignores my predicament'? Don't you know? Haven't you heard?"*

In the business of our lives it can be easy to forget about the Reality of God, God's attentiveness to every single one of us, God's love and care for every single person.

When we are in financial crisis, are we able to remember Jesus' words: *"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet none of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father... ..so, don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."*?

When it seems like we are all alone in this great big world are we able to remember that Jesus promises: *"even the very hairs of your head are all numbered."*?

When we feel unloved or unlovable, are we able to remember that *"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life?"*

I will never forget many instances in my life, when, feeling like I was at the end of my rope, God spoke to me through a Scripture verse, a sermon, a friend, a song, or in prayer. Hope may be hard to sustain, but if we wait and trust in God...

...if we continue to meet together as a church...

...if we call out to God in prayer...

...if we put all our trust in God, we will be given the ability to meet all the challenges of life and even rise above them.

This is what people of faith have been learning and relearning ever since human life began. Life is difficult and the challenges we face can be so severe that even the young will faint and grow weary. But to those who surrender their lives completely to God, Isaiah has a word of very deep encouragement: "*God is the One Who does not faint or grow weary.*"

This is truer than just about anything else:

" we will certainly stumble; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired; they will walk and not be weary."