

Pastor's Patch: Protection



Not for the first time we have birds nesting on church premises. There's an external corridor leading to the church garage, and recently I noticed some twigs on the ground. Thinking they had been knocked down by the workmen working on the toilet roof I thought nothing more of it. But a few days later I went out there to discover a pigeon on this pile of twigs (a.k.a. "nest"). Needing to enter the garage I moved closer and the pigeon flew up to reveal two eggs in the nest. I vaguely wondered if I had caused the eggs to be permanently abandoned, but very soon the pigeon was back on her nest determinedly protecting and incubating her eggs once again. No matter how many times she's disturbed, she keeps returning. There's nothing so fierce as a mother's love – which is exactly what the prophet Isaiah wrote to God's people, articulating God's words.

Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!
(Isaiah chapter 49 verse 15)

Whether you had protective and loving parents or not, God will never abandon you His children. Whether your parents reached a life stage where they could not even remember your name, God will never forget you. As followers of Jesus we have an unbreakable bond with our Father in Heaven and His unconditional love. No matter what we do or neglect to do, regardless of any number of sins and failures, He will stick by you through the whole of your life and into eternity.

This is no accident, but an example to copy. With those around you in life, you are called to love them as He enables you to with an unconditional love. When people let you down, like God in heaven above we can seek to go on forgiving and protecting them. We live under the protective shadow of God's wing, and He wants us to learn from His example.

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