



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

51 North Franklin Road • Indianapolis, IN 46219 • 317.897.1298

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 9, 2015

THE HAWK



THEY SET SILENTLY ON POWER LINES OR FENCE POSTS, LOOKING ALMOST STATELY. BUT SWIFTLY THEY STRIKE AND THE UNSUSPECTING PREY IS SUDDENLY IN THE GRASP OF THE PREDATOR. THE HAWK NO LONGER HUNGERS.

LAST TUESDAY PASTOR ANDY AND I WERE MEETING IN MY OFFICE WHEN HE SAW A RED-TAIL HAWK GLIDING TOWARD THE TREE RIGHT OUTSIDE MY WINDOW. JUST AS I LOOKED UP THE HAWK WAS FLYING AWAY WITH A SMALL BIRD IN IT'S GRASP.

REFLECTING NOW ON THAT SCENARIO I BELIEVE THERE ARE SOME USEFUL TRUTHS FOR US TO PONDER. ONE THOUGHT IS THAT FOR THE VICTIMIZED BIRD THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SAFETY IN NUMBERS. IF THERE HAD BEEN MORE BIRDS IN THE TREE THE HAWK MAY NOT HAVE SINGLED THIS BIRD OUT OR THE OTHER BIRDS MIGHT HAVE SEEN THE HAWK COMING AND WARNED THE TARGETED ONE. I AM REMINDED THAT GOD ENCOURAGES US TO GATHER EVERY LORD'S DAY IN HIS HOUSE. IN FACT WE ARE COMMANDED NOT TO FORSAKE SUCH AN ASSEMBLING (HEBREWS 10:25). SUCH FELLOWSHIP AND ENCOURAGEMENT KEEPS US FROM A HARDENED HEART THAT DEPARTS FROM THE LIVING GOD. (SEE HEBREWS 3:13).

IF THAT BIRD HAD BEEN MORE ALERT PERHAPS HE WOULD STILL BE CHIRPING. BELIEVERS ARE WARNED ABOUT BEING AT EASE AND ILL-PREPARED FOR BATTLE. WE SHOULD WAKE UP AND PUT ON THE ARMOR OF LIGHT (ROMANS 13:11-12). AFTERALL, WE KNOW THAT THE DEVIL IS LURKING ABOUT SEEKING SOMEONE TO DESTROY (1 PETER 5:8) AND I DON'T THINK HE'S PARTICULAR ABOUT WHO HE CAN GRAB. NORMALLY HAWKS THRIVE ON MICE, CHIPMUNKS AND SMALL RABBITS AS THEIR MEALS. BUT WITH THE SNOW COVER THESE WERE PROBABLY NOT RECENTLY SEEN BY THE HUNGRY HAWK SO HE FIXED HIS EYES ON OTHER PREY.

FINALLY, I'M REMINDED THAT THE MORNING OF THAT BIRD'S DEATH, HE HAD NO IDEA OF HIS DEMISE. JAMES 4:13-14 REMINDS US THAT WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT A DAY WILL BRING FORTH AND GOES ON TO SAY THAT OUR LIFE IS NO MORE THAN VAPOR THAT APPEARS AND DISAPPEARS QUITE QUICKLY. JEREMIAH WARNED HIS PEOPLE ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS WHO SAY "PEACE, PEACE, BUT THERE IS NO PEACE." (JEREMIAH 8:11). WE TRULY NEVER KNOW HOW EACH DAY WILL END.

WELL, THANKFULLY WE'RE NOT VULNERABLE TO RED-TAIL HAWKS, BUT WE ARE NONE-THE-LESS VULNERABLE. MAY GOD HELP US TO BE ASSEMBLED, ALERT AND ALIVE.

LOOKING UP,
PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE