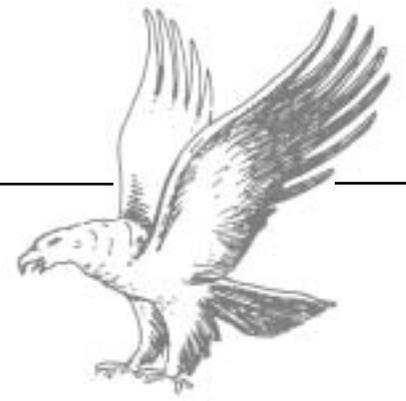


Wings

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



November 14, 2010

We Shall See!

The decisions we make in life will bear consequences down the road, good or bad.

Our challenge is to recognize the consequences *before* we make the decisions, not after.

"Then they said to one another, 'Look, this dreamer is coming! Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, "Some wild beast has devoured him." We shall see what will become of his dreams!'" (Gen. 37:19-20).

As a boy, Joseph dreamed that his older brothers would someday bow down before him. They were already jealous of him because of the special attention he got from their father, Jacob, and these dreams did not sit well with them. So when the opportunity presented itself, they plotted to get rid of their little brother: "We shall see what will become of his dreams!"

Their words proved to be prophetic. Twenty years later, hungry and smitten in conscience, they were all bowing down before the prime minister of Egypt, begging for food. The prime minister, of course, was their little brother, Joseph, who had overcome numerous hardships to rise to a position of great power (ch. 42-45). Joseph's dreams had come true—and his brothers were there to see it for themselves.

Those who choose a course of evil may have fun for awhile, but sooner or later they will meet their wickedness coming back. "His trouble shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown" (Psa. 7:15). But despite the evidence for this principle, through ignorance or defiance, people continue to try to beat the odds, and see the truth only when it is too late.

Young people, for example, can be quite vicious in their ridicule of a square classmate. After all, look at what the square is missing: drugs, sex, alcohol, wild parties, no rules. Why would anyone want to deny themselves all this pleasure? "We shall see what will become of her dull lifestyle!" Years later, they *will* see it—when she is happily married, healthy, and comfortable, and they are emotional and physical wrecks, broken by a life of profligate selfishness.

In a world that is mad for wealth and material possessions, a person who passes up opportunities for advancement and extra income, content with his sim-

ple station in life, is considered strange. His acquaintances laugh at him as they leave him far behind in the rat race: "We shall see what will become of his lack of ambition!" Indeed, they shall! They will lose sleep at night desperately trying to balance over-extended budgets, and lose their children to worldly influences that they were too busy to shield against. Meanwhile, the "unambitious" man sails serenely on, content to enjoy life's little blessings on his way to a mansion in another realm.

The real tragedy in all these stories is that the participants do not have to wait to see the outcome of their behavior. The path to happiness can be determined by looking at God's word, and observing the experiences of others who have gone before us. There is sufficient evidence to predict how our choices in life will play out, if we will only open our eyes to see it.

Joseph's brothers eventually recognized the folly of their own shortsightedness, and had an opportunity to repair the damage they had done. We may not be so fortunate.

— David King