

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

A Parent's Anxiety and Comfort

Today the Church calendar commemorates the unknown parents of Mary, mother of Jesus. They could have never known what their baby daughter would experience in her lifetime. They could not have known what would happen to her after she met Joseph. They must have had their share of anxiety. But, perhaps, they drew comfort from the promises in Psalm 121: The LORD watches over you—he will watch over your life; 8 the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. It is comforting to know that the Lord loves our children more than we do. And certainly He is stronger, wiser and far better able to care for them than we are. And here is the promise that He will always be with them, wherever they may go, watching and caring for them, forever! Truly, a parent's greatest comfort. 7 The LORD will keep you from all harm—This, too, is very comforting; but, reality check: we know of children who have been harmed: children of Believers, of people who have claimed the promises of this Psalm. What happened? Is this promise false? Bad things do happen to God's People. The Psalmist certainly knew that in his own life. The promise of v. 7 often has been demonstrated; in fact, more than we can know; but taken literally, at face value only, it can lead to some bitter

disillusionment with Scripture (You can't believe it) and, worse, with God (You can't trust Him after all)

Sometimes the verse means God will keep you from all harm- in the long run. In the end, terrible things will work out for the good. This is true and we are wise to take the long view of all things (keeping perspective). Sometimes it means, God will keep the terrible things from harming your soul. They won't "get to you". You will overcome them. God will keep you, preserve you, give you peace and strength, as you go through the terrible experiences that do happen. This also has proven true to untold numbers of Saints. Interpreted in these ways, Psalm 121:7, can give believing parents comfort as their children grow up and move out into the world. Parents and child are both in the Lord's Hand always and in all ways.

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 09:27