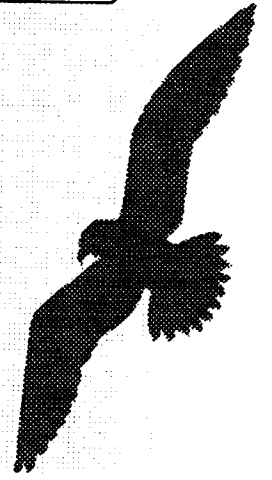


*"They shall
mount up...*

ON EAGLES' WINGS

*... with wings
as eagles."
Isaiah 40:31*



AERY NUGGETS

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7.

Does Jesus Care?

Does Jesus care when my heart is pained
Too deeply for mirth and song;
As the burdens press, and the cares distress,
And the way grows weary and long?

Does Jesus care when my way is dark
With a nameless dread and fear?
As the daylight fades into deep night shades,
Does He care enough to be near?

Does Jesus care when I've tried and failed
To resist some temptation strong;
When for my deep grief I find no relief,
Tho my tears flow all night long?

Does Jesus care when I've said goodbye
To the dearest on earth to me,
And my sad heart aches till it nearly breaks-
Is it aught to Him? Does He care?

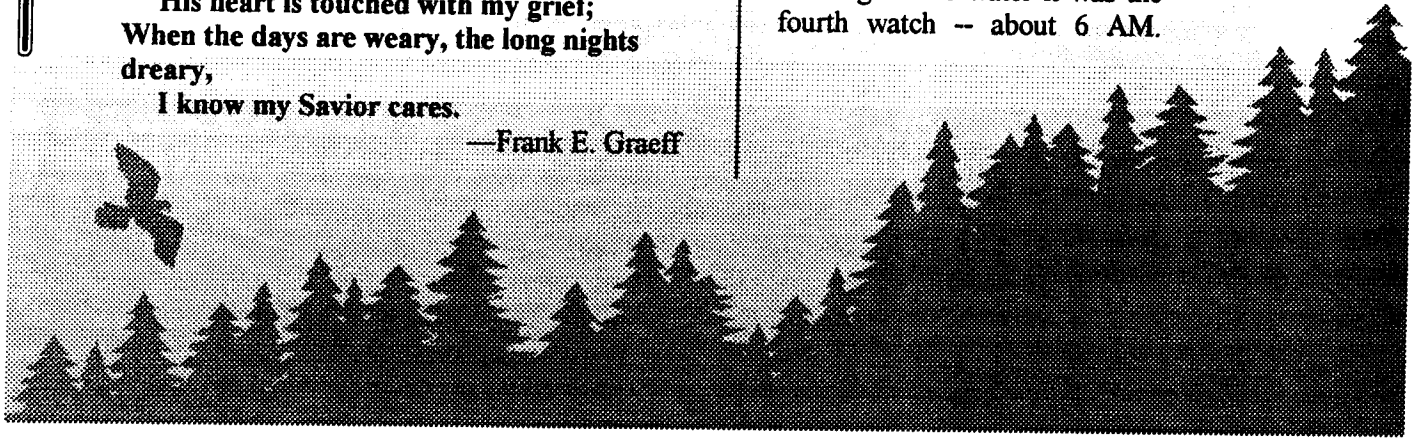
O yes, He cares - I know He cares!
His heart is touched with my grief;
When the days are weary, the long nights
dreary,
I know my Savior cares.

—Frank E. Graeff

Dear Friends,

The writer of the hymn "Does Jesus Care" went through many deep trials which were a real test of his faith. It was when he was going through one of these deep trials that he experienced severe despondency, doubt and physical agony. It was then that his attention was directed to the verse in 1 Peter 5:7. As the truth of that verse gripped him he was led to write this beautiful hymn. Most believers can relate to the questions raised in this hymn, especially in times of loneliness, loss and other trials.

Let's look at four examples from the Bible that really show that Jesus cares about us. In Matthew 14 verses 22-27 the Lord Jesus told his disciples "to get into a ship, and to go before Him unto the other side" of the Sea of Galilee. As the disciples began to row their boat across the sea they found that the winds were against them. From John's gospel (6:19) we find that they had rowed about twenty or thirty furlongs which is about three miles. They had started their journey in the evening and when the Lord met them walking on the water it was the fourth watch -- about 6 AM.



They had been rowing almost 9 hours and were not making much progress. I believe that we can all relate to this experience.

Does Jesus really care?

What did Jesus do when the disciples were experiencing these contrary winds? We find that He knew what His disciples were going through and He came to them walking on the water. In their fear they cried out and the first words of the Lord were, "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid." Matthew 14:27.

The Lord Jesus always knows what we are facing. The winds may be contrary to us and we may not seem to be getting anywhere but He still comes to us with those words, "In the world ye shall tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." No matter what kind of trial we are going through "HE WILL NEVER LEAVE US NOR FORSAKE US." Hebrews 13:5.

In our second example we find two disappointed disciples walking seven miles back from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They were talking together about all the things that had happened in Jerusalem. They had trusted that the Lord Jesus would be the one to redeem Israel but He had been crucified. All their hopes were gone. Luke 24:13-53.

Does Jesus really care?

Let's see the answer to that question. As they talked, "Jesus Himself drew near and went with them." He knew all about their thoughts, their disappointments and by His questions invited them to tell Him all about it. He opened the scriptures to them and He was revealed to them. They then walked back the seven miles to Jerusalem with new joy and excitement. "Oh, yes He cares, His heart is touched with our grief."

Again we see that the Lord Jesus knows our thoughts and in the moments of doubt and perplexity will draw near to us to encourage and strengthen our faith. What a Saviour!

Let's look at a third example. The apostle Paul had been witnessing to the Chief priests and their council. After almost losing his life to the unruly mob he was put into a prison.

Does Jesus really care?

We find the answer in Acts 23:11. We read these words: "And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of Me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome." *We are never alone.* How good to always know that the Lord will stand by us. Years later when the apostle Paul was facing certain death in a Roman prison, he wrote: "At my first answer *no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: --- Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be*

fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." 2 Timothy 4:16-18.

In our fourth example Paul is a prisoner on a ship bound for Rome. A terrible storm has been encountered and all hope that anyone will be saved from a watery grave has been given up. No sun nor stars have been seen for many days.

Does Jesus really care?

It is then that Paul stands up and says, "And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. *For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.*" Acts 27: 22- 25.

Does Jesus really care?

These four examples show that Jesus does care about us. He does know all about our feelings, sorrows, disappointments and trials that we experience. Let us also remember that the Lord Jesus we read about in the Bible is same today. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." Hebrews 13:8.

As we think of His promise to never leave us nor forsake us may we say with the apostle Paul, "for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me."

In His wonderful love,

John D. McNeil

"Ye have not passed this way heretofore." Joshua 3:4

"The ark . . . went before the people." Joshua 3:6

The Israelites now faced an unknown future. They could see the immediate problem of crossing Jordan, which lay before them; they could not, however, foresee the battles that lay ahead in Canaan. But "the ark of the Lord of all the earth," symbol of the divine presence, led the way, promoting faith and allaying fear. —W.P.W. McVey

A new, strange path stretched out before me lies,

A way untrodden, hidden from mine eyes;

I know not what awaits me as I go,

Of joy or pain, of happiness or woe.

But I can trust—the way is all marked out

By Him who knows the path without a doubt.

—R.A. Johnson

For address correction or free new name addition, write to:
Leslie L Winters