

Good morning, Church. Daily Reading, John 5.

Psalm 91:4 "He will cover you with his feathers.

He will shelter you with his wings.

His faithful promises are your armor and protection." (NLT)

Almost every year, my wife and kids go to the local Farm Supply Store and purchase new little chicks to replace some who have gone to chicken heaven. When they are brought home, they are cared for with their own warm bedding, heat lamps, a special diet, and clean water. Every day, they are checked on and cared for.

But one time, years ago, one hen actually hatched her little chick. It was fun to watch this mother hen care for her little one even before it came from its egg. For weeks, this hen sat on her egg, keeping it warm and safe. Even to her own lack of food and water, she wasn't going to forsake her egg. And even after the chick was hatched, again, her priority was her little one.

This is the way I picture God in this verse. When Jesus came to earth and left glory, this was for our good, not His. When He was arrested, tried, beaten, again, for our good, not His. When He was mocked and crucified, again, for our good. When He endured the shame of the cross and had His Father turn His back on Him, once more, for mankind, not Himself. His sacrificial love goes much deeper than a chick hatched and cared, but the idea is much the same. Sacrificial love knows no bounds.

I remember the first time I noticed the little chick, hiding under its mother's wings, warm and protected. As we take refuge under the wings of the Lord, His word leads and guides us. His promises protect us. His faithfulness knows no limit. We are safe and secure.

As that chick grew, you always saw it close to its mother. It was looking for help in a heartless world where other hens and critters might attack it. But it always knew mom was close.

As we stay close to God in prayer, study, worship, God surrounds and protects us, as we live in a heartless world, with an enemy, always seeking to devour.