

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Have you ever seen a mother duck with little chicks following her where ever she goes, whether it is walking on dry land or in to the water? What a beautiful sight to watch. Or have you seen how an eagle, both the mother and father will cover the eggs, taking turns, until they hatch? Then when the parents think it is time for their babies to leave the nest, how they help them on that first flight. In the animal kingdom, when it is time to leave home, this is their independence day.

When we speak or think about independence day, as humans our thoughts move to the 4th of July as that is the day we celebrate our independence. *In this greeting we are moving our thoughts to the time of Jesus teaching ministry when the teachers of the law depended on their own ability to keep the law. How miserably they failed and we too fail to keep the law. But Jesus freed us from the dependence of our own ability to keep the laws of God in order to be saved.*

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: ² “The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. ³ So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. ⁴ They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. Matthew 23: 1-4

I always get a chill when I read these verses or hear this presented in church. To think that Jesus is willing to gather His children under His wings to protect, supply all of needs, and to keep us safe from Satan’s claws. He was willing to do this for His children at that time and He is willing to do that for you and me at this time. He still wants to free people from their dependence on keeping the law and invite them to depend on him.

A little later in this chapter, Jesus continued speaking, telling them about “Seven Woes on the Teachers of the Law and the Pharisees”.

At the end of this chapter He went on with the words from Matthew 23: 37-39. ³⁷ “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. ³⁸ Look, your house is left to you desolate. ³⁹ For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”^[c]

So, by this love, He offers to gather us under His wings. This then gives us our independence to be free from the heavy burden of keeping laws to please God and save ourselves. Instead we can live our lives freely following his laws of love for Him and to not fear proclaiming the independence has won for all.

Celebrate July 4th because that day gave us the freedom of religion plus many more freedoms. Celebrate the freedom of Jesus every day and say “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”.

