

Under His Protective Wing

. . . How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!—Matthew 23:37

Driving down the country road where I live, I encountered two geese and several goslings crossing the road. One goose led the goslings across and the other stood in the middle of the road. I was getting a little impatient because the goose just stood there in front of my car. After a few moments I saw six or seven more goslings waddling out of the woods and stepping onto the road. Then I understood.

What a good mother! I thought of my own mother and how she would wisely protect her children from harm. I don't remember her standing in the way of a car, but I do remember her standing in the way of cruel and thoughtless comments. I often think of how she provided a safe place for her family. How she would sit on my bed each evening and listen to my thoughts and pray. I knew I could count on her to be there when I needed insulation from the hurts of the world.

I recalled the verse in which Jesus laments over Jerusalem. Weeping, He said that He would have gathered their children as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. This tender metaphor shows how Jesus would enfold those who trust in Him with His protection. He would keep us safe from the attacks of the wicked one.

As the goose stood in the way of the car, as a mother holds a distraught child in her arms, so our precious Savior will hold us in His love and keep us safe.