

## THE FIFTH SPARROW

Text: Matthew 10:29-31; Luke 12:6-7

INTRO: Throughout the Scriptures we are told of God's care for the most insignificant of His creatures. Often in life each of us is a disappointment—to his parents, his children, his friends, his mate, the Lord, even on one's self. It is encouraging to know that even though that is the case, the Lord still cares for us & provides for us.

### I. SOME N.T. STATEMENTS & PROMISES.

Heb 1:13-14, But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

2 Tim 3:10-14, But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra--what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, & all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse & worse, deceiving & being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

NOTE: We may not fully understand **how**, in **what sense** and to **what extent** the Lord accomplishes these things. Our attempts at explanation & our opinions might differ regarding them—but we **must** believe each of these & similar statements from God's word & we should take comfort from them.

### II. THE LESSON IN OUR TEXTS.

A. Sparrows are small, insignificant birds. When we consider their size & their abundance, we may marvel that they had any value at all attached to them.

B. Matthew tells us 2 sparrows sold for a penny. Luke shows that could buy 5 for the price of 4. To man's way of thinking they were almost worthless. We wouldn't eat one & them make poor pets.

C. Yet God is concerned with each of them.

III. THE APPLICATION TO US.

A. Material blessings. God will take care of us.

Heb 13:5-6, Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

Matt 6:31-33, Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 'For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God & His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Phil 4:6-7, 19, Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer & supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; & the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts & minds thru Christ Jesus... And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

B. Problems, difficulties. God will use them to help us.

2 Peter 2:9, The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

1 Cor. 10:13

Rev 3:10, [To Philadelphia:] Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

CONCLUSION: song writer C.D Martin has written:

Whenever I am tempted, Whenever clouds arise,  
When songs give place to sighing, When hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to Him, From care He sets me free;  
His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He cares for me.

La Porte, TX, January 8, 1984

Exton, PA, September 10, 1989

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, January 14, 1996

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, September 9, 2001