

HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

Mt.10:28-31

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In Mt.10 Jesus called and sent out the 12 apostles on the “Limited Commission.”
 - a. V.1: “...he gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.”
 - b. Vv.5,6, he limited them in the scope of this commission as to whom they were to go preaching and healing:
 - (1) V.5: “Go not into the way of the Gentiles,” --- “enter ye not into any city of the Samaritans.”
 - (2) V.6: “Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”
 - c. Vv.16-22, he warned them that persecution and hatred in extreme forms and measures on his account would accompany their preaching.
 - d. But as an encouragement in the midst of this persecution, Jesus told his sent ones of his Father’s care, and of the blessing of being confessed by him before the Father if they confessed him before men, vv.28-33.
2. Jesus made it clear in Mt.10:29 that the Father’s eye is on the sparrow.

II. DISCUSSION

A. TO ENCOURAGE HIS APOSTLES THAT GOD CARED FOR THEM, AND BY THE SAME TOKEN TO ENCOURAGE US, TOO, JESUS HERE TEACHES THAT GOD’S EYE IS EVEN ON THINGS WE MAY DEEM MOST INSIGNIFICANT, Mt.10:29.

1. “Sparrow” is the name given to more than one species of small insignificant birds in the Bible which often gathered in noisy flocks.
 - a. These insignificant little birds were such social creatures that a lone sparrow on a housetop was the symbol of deep loneliness, Psa.102:7.
 - b. In the days of the personal ministry of Jesus sparrows were often sold for a very low price – two of them for a farthing – a very small Roman coin, ¼ of an English penny – worth very little in monetary value.
 - c. Under the Law of Moses those who were too poor to afford to sacrifice a sheep or a goat might bring a sparrow to the Temple, Lev.14:1-7.
 - d. So insignificant were these little birds that if one bought four sparrows the seller would throw in one more for free, Lk.12:6.
2. In Mt.10:29 Jesus makes the point that God’s care for his creation is so great and so inclusive that not even one of these little sparrows “is forgotten before God.”
3. Then in Mt.10:31 he makes his most significant point which is this:If God is concerned about the tiny insignificant sparrow and notes its fate, how much more

must be his concern for man, who is immeasurably greater in value in God's sight than the sparrow!

4. If his eye is on the sparrow, the most common of all birds, how much more evident is it that his eye is on man who has been created in God's own image and God's own likeness!
5. In Mt.6:25-34 Jesus says:
 - a. The heavenly Father provides food for "the birds of the air" even though "they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns."
 - b. God "clothes the lilies (the grass) of the field" that "toil not, neither do they spin," yet "even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."
 - c. To us, "Therefore...be not anxious for your life, what you shall eat... drink ... what you shall put on (wear)...are ye not much better than they (the birds of the air)?"
 - d. "Shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?" than he has clothed the lilies of the field – or the scarlet poppies – that bloomed for only one day, then were used to heat an over for baking.
 - e. If God takes such good care of the birds of the field and gives such beauty to a short-lived flower, how much more will he care for man, who is the very crown of his creation!
6. David, in Psa.8:3-8, was quiet impressed by God's care for man. So should we be. For even his eye is on the sparrow. How much more so on us!

B. EVEN THOUGH GOD CARES HE DOES NOT ALWAYS PREVENT EVIL FROM HAPPENING TO US.

1. Even with the sparrow in Mt.10:29, we learn bad things happen – they "fall"!
 - a. He cares for sparrows. He feeds the birds of the air.
 - b. But he does not prevent them being hunted by predators, or dying from disease, or being destroyed by the elements, etc.
2. Although God cares for us even more than the birds of the air, this does not mean our lives will be free from this life's cares, troubles, persecutions, sickness, etc.
3. Take note of Mt.10 and the apostles, his chosen and sent ones.
 - a. He didn't keep them from being persecuted, even by their own kin.
 - b. He even warned them about the ultimate price they might have to pay for his sake, Mt.10:28.
 - c. He also laid before them a conditional blessing and curse, Mt.10:32,33.
4. Consider the case of Job, the righteous, upright servant of God.
 - a. God had placed a "hedge" around Job (1:8-11), but allowed Satan to sorely tempt him (Job 1:12).
 - b. We are no different from or better than Job and should learn from Job, who:

- (1) In the midst of his trials did not lose his trust in God, Job 1:21.
 - (2) Said: "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him," Job 13:15.
 - (3) Had to endure false charges hurled against him by his friends in his most trying hour.
5. Consider also Mt.5:10-12; 2Tim.3:12; Heb.10:32-34; 11:32-40; 12:6-11; Rev.2:10; 12:11.
 6. But be assured that with every temptation there will also be a way of escape, 1Cor.10:13; cf. Psa.119:11.
 - a. That is, escape yielding to temptation, Jas.1:12.
 - b. We may, and no doubt will, have to endure hardship and perhaps even death in the service of the Lord, but we do not have to yield to sin!

III. CONCLUSION

1. God's care continues for us, and if we faint not, we reap the eternal reward, Gal.6:7-9.
2. Anxiety and worry are needless, useless and injurious, Mt.6:25-32.
 - a. It wears out the mind and the body.
 - b. It affects our judgment, lessens our powers of proper decision making, and renders us progressively incapable of dealing with life in a righteous manner.
 - c. It is a manifestation of our lack of faith, Mt.6:30-34.
3. Consider and follow the instruction of 1Tim.6:6-10.
4. Rom.8:28 – God's plan works for us if we will work the plan!
5. And it reaches beyond this life and the grave to the home of the soul, 1Pet.1:3-5,9; 2Pet.1:5-11.

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