

July 27, 2008

“God is in Everything!”

Matt 10:29-31 NLT

Not even a sparrow, worth only half a penny, can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. 30 And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. 31 So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to him than a whole flock of sparrows.

Three brothers, Milton, Marvin, and Melvin left home for college, and they became very successful and prospered.

Some years later, they chatted after having dinner together. They discussed the gifts that they were able to give to their elderly mother who lived far away in another city.

The first said, "I had a big house built for Mama."

The second said, "I had my Mercedes dealer deliver her an SL600."

The third said, "Listen to this. You know how Mama loved reading the Bible and you know she can't read it anymore because she can't see very well. I met this priest who told me about a parrot that can recite the entire Bible. It took twenty priests 12 years to teach him. I had to pledge to contribute \$100,000 a year for twenty years to the church, but it was worth it. Mama just has to name the chapter and verse and the parrot will recite it."

The other brothers were impressed.

After the holidays Mom sent out her Thank You notes. She wrote: "Milton, the house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house. Thanks anyway.."

"Marvin, I am too old to travel. I stay home, I have my groceries delivered, so I never use the Mercedes. The thought was good. Thanks."

"Dearest Melvin, you were the only son to have the good sense to give a little thought to your gift. The chicken was delicious. Thank you."

The mom didn't realize how valuable that bird was. Our text talks about sparrows. Sparrows were not very important to people in biblical times...but they were and are important to God.

Sparrows were small birds, found in great numbers. They were tame, and would build their nests anywhere. They were a nuisance and were destroyed in large numbers. They became the poor man's sacrifice. If someone could not afford a lamb to sacrifice, or any other animal for that matter, they could certainly afford a sparrow, you could get two for a penny. This fact, that so many were destroyed, makes the words even more incredible that not even one can fall to the ground without you Father knowing it, and remembering it. And, as Jesus points out as well, if that is how God values sparrows, then certainly He knows everything about you, for you are much more valuable to Him than a whole flock of sparrows. And to make the point that God cares about the most intimate things of your life, as well as the smallest matters in your life, Jesus says, "the very hairs on your head are all numbered." (Of course, the amount of hairs on some heads are easy to count than others...but their all easy to God)

Nothing can happen in your life that God does not know about. Whatever circumstances or situations you are facing be assured of this: God is in it. God is in everything that happens in your life and God cares about you.

You need to see this truth, you need to see God in everything. It will cause you to abandon yourself completely to God, and have a perfect trust in Him. It will eliminate fear and anxiety from your life.

God is in control. People and things can bring havoc into your life, but God is still in control. You may think, "Why should I trust my affairs to God when other agencies can come along and destroy the plan (You've heard the saying, "Life is what happens to you while you are making other plans.")). If you are a child of God, then everything must come through Him and is under His control, no matter who or what have been the apparent agents. Evil may even be the origin of some action against you, and therefore cannot be said to be the will of God; but by the time it reaches you God is already at work using it for your good.

No power on earth or in heaven can overcome God's will and purpose for you, when you are abiding in Christ. If God is for us, it doesn't matter who may be against us. Not even a worthless sparrow is worthless to Him or can fall without Him. He has every hair on our head counted. That means He takes note of even the smallest matters that can affect the lives of His children, and regulates all circumstances and situations in your life, according to His perfect will, no matter what the origin of the matter may be.

Do you remember the life of Joseph? It appeared that what he faced was the result of evil and the sin of others. It began with his own brothers selling him into slavery. Yet, what did Joseph say? (Gen 50:20 NCV), "You meant to hurt me, but God turned your evil into good..."

His brothers meant to hurt him, but by the time it reached Joseph, it had become God's will and God turned their evil into good, and though at first Joseph may not have seen it, it became the greatest blessing of his whole life.

God is at work for your good (I can't do a message like this and not quote this scripture: (Rom 8:28 NLT), "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."

I want you to see this truth plainly, because I am convinced it is the key to a completely restful life.

Recently something happened that made me begin to worry, but I caught my self and changed my thoughts. I said to myself, wait a minute, God is in control, He loves me, and He is at work to use this for good and to carry out His plan. Then I prayed, "Lord, this is in your hands, I trust you." And as I prayed peace came over me.

When you feel anxious, when you feel fear, or another negative emotion, that feeling is your warning to change what you're thinking. Drop the "what ifs" and the "maybes" and the "*suppose-ens*" they will just make you miserable. Instead, remind yourself that there is no need for worry, fear, anger, because God is in control and He will accomplish His good purpose, even through a difficult situation.

Seeing God in everything will not only give you peace, it will help you to be loving and patient with those who annoy you, as you realize God is even using that kind of person to help you to grow and to do something good in you.

Seeing God in everything will put a stop to your complaining and rebellion. If God has allowed the trial to come it must mean that it is going to result in the best thing that could happen to you, if you will accept it and trust Him. This does not mean, however, that we have to like the trial, that we will enjoy the trial itself. It means we are trusting God's will in the trial.

Now, of course, you must first have a personal relationship with God, and God has provided for that also. God took what seemed to be a very bad situation and used it for good (just as we have been talking about). For, God came to this earth in the person of Jesus Christ to save us, and we tortured Him and put Him to a horrible death by crucifixion; and the enemy or Satan, rejoiced. But what the enemy meant for evil, God meant for good. Jesus arose from the dead, and by that death and resurrection, forgave the sins of all who believe and receive Jesus, giving them the Spirit of God to dwell within their hearts, and gave them the hope of eternal life.

First you have to trust God to save you from the penalty due your sins, then you must abandon yourself entirely to God, and put all your trust in Him. This way of seeing our Father in everything makes for a life of thanksgiving, and gives you a heart of rest, and joy unspeakable and full of glory. Or as Peter put it (1 Peter 1:8-9 NLT), "You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him, you trust him; and

even now you are happy with a glorious, inexpressible joy. Your reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.”

God is in everything so don't be afraid and don't worry.

It's like the joke one of the guys on the softball team told us a few weeks ago when he shared a devotion with us:

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible; Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse.

Little Bobby was excited about the task. But, he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Bobby was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my shepherd and that's all I need to know!"

Nothing can happen in your life that God does not know about. Whatever the circumstances, God is in control. Oh, that you would clearly see this truth, that you will abandon yourself completely to God, and have a perfect trust in Him. It will eliminate fear and anxiety from your life.