

## Sparrow

*“Do not be afraid. You are of more value than many sparrows.”*

**Matthew 10:31**

**Sparrow**—Who would imagine that God could teach us something from a word about birds? The Greek word is *strouthion*. It is a diminutive. In other words, it is a word that means “little birds.” Did you ever go to the State Fair when you were a kid? I remember going there and seeing baby chicks for sale, and tiny turtles, and little lizards and goldfish in plastic bags. They were inexpensive delightful pets. Unfortunately, they usually did not live very long.

Jesus didn’t go to fairs. But He knew how to point to God through the smallest and most insignificant things of the world. Hairs on your head, wildflowers in the field, mustard seeds and tiny birds. God keeps track of all of them. God loves all of them. After all, it is His world. He made it. And if He loves and cares for these tiny parts of His world, He certainly cares about us.

On clear nights I look up at the stars and find myself shaken by the majesty of His creation. I often think how insignificant I am compared to the vast universe. God made it all, from the cosmic to the microscopic. I’m not much compared to all that. But then I think about tiny birds. They’re not much compared to me. And God loves them. That fact can make me cry. God loves me. He certainly didn’t have to love me. Especially when I spent so much of my life telling Him to mind His own business. But I am His business, and thank God, He did mind it. Is there anything more important in life than to know that God loves us?

Jesus tells us that we do not have to be afraid because God loves us. He encourages me about those moments when I am overwhelmed with concern about my life, when I am afraid that my life will spin out of control or fall into unbearable circumstances the fearful moments. Jesus says, “The Father who made everything cares about you. He is watching over you. You don’t have to be afraid.” Today is a great day to lift up my hands and say, “Thank you, Lord, for loving me. It’s wonderful not to be afraid.”