

## Great Stories of the Bible - 05/01/22

### Lilies and Birds

**TEXT- Matthew 6:25-34** *Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body,*

**INTRO – The Christian’s greatest concern should be laying up treasure in Heaven not on earth.**

This discourse is a reminder of the provision of God and the importance of trusting Him with the needs of life.

Our Lord had very little of this world’s goods.

Born in a stable, from Nazareth, from Galilee, His disciples poor fishermen, His ministry without income, nowhere to lay His head, rode a borrowed donkey, stripped of His cloke, buried in a borrowed tomb.

**Mark 6:8-10** *And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse: 9 But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats. 10 And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place.*

**Luke 22:35** *And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing.*

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought ... –

Four arguments expressing the duty of depending for the things which we need on the providence of God.

The “first” is stated in **Mat 6:25**; *“Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?”*

In the beginning of the verse he charged his disciples to take “no thought” - that is, not to be “anxious” about the supply of their wants.

He who has displayed “so great” goodness as to form the body, and breathe into it the breath of life, will surely confer the favor of providing that that body shall be clothed, and that life preserved.

**No thought** - The word “thought,” when the Bible was translated, meant “anxiety.”

It is said of Charles Spurgeon that he once spent four hours staring at a sparrow.

**Psalms 19:1** *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*

### There is a song “His Eye Is On the Sparrow”

The sparrow is a bird found just about anywhere around the world, and yet it is not a fancy or flashy bird. In fact, it is so common that most people overlook it because it is so plain. It is definitely not endangered or rare. If a sparrow were to fall on the ground injured or hurt, no one would

probably notice, but the sparrow’s Creator and God notices. And if God notices one of these tiny, simple, common birds, He notices us. One of my favorite songs is “His Eye is on the Sparrow.” The inspiration for this song was found by author Civilla Martin while visiting some friends, the Doolittles. Mrs. Doolittle had been bedridden, and Mr. Doolittle went to and from work in a wheelchair. Civilla Martin was so struck by their joy and contentment in such difficult circumstances that she asked Mrs. Doolittle what her secret was. Mrs. Doolittle replied, “His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.” That simple answer so filled with faith inspired Civilla Martin to write the lyrics to the song, “His Eye Is on the Sparrow.”

#### His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,  
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home,  
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He:  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

“Let not your heart be troubled,” His tender word I hear,  
And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;  
Though by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

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 watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

I sing because I’m happy,  
I sing because I’m free,  
For His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.

Every time I see a little sparrow, I am reminded that God is watching over me. **Matthew 10:29-31** says *“Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.”*

We have all felt lonely and afraid at one time. Remember the sparrow! As the Bible says, *“Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.”*

God wants us to know that He is a loving and caring God. He does not want us to worry and fret over basic needs when He promises to provide for us.

**Matthew 6:25** says *"Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?"*

Even in the best of circumstances, we can get discouraged, but we can have faith in God's Word that He is always watching us.

Distrustful anxiety for food and raiment is a branch of covetousness

1. God, who hath given life, will provide food for maintenance of life
2. God, who provides food for birds and fowls, will certainly provide for His own children.
3. Anxious care about our future cannot produce security
4. God clothes the grass and flowers of the field with more colors than all the glory of Solomon's garments
5. Anxious seeking of the things of this earth is the sin of the Gentiles,
6. Christians are not fatherless, nor is their Father forgetful of their needs.
7. You have the kingdom of God and His righteousness to bestow your first and chiefest cares,
8. The morrow shall bring with it troublesome cares of its own; and the day, or the time present, hath sufficient trouble by itself; therefore neither time present nor time to come should be made worse by anxious anticipating of troublesome cares before they come.

**CONCL –**

**Jesus tells the disciples a few things.**

First, he tells them that they cannot serve two masters. They cannot simultaneously serve God and serve wealth. They cannot set those things as equal and work towards both at the same time. One must take precedence over the other, and Jesus tells us the only choice that makes any sense is God.

Secondly, Jesus goes on to say don't worry about what you will eat.

Don't worry about clothing.

Don't worry about what you will drink.

Because worrying will not add a single hour onto your life.

Instead, trust that God will provide.

Trust that the God who takes care of the birds, the God who puts the lilies in the field, will care for you even more.