



Safe in God's Care

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[Jesus said] Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven. Matthew 10:29-33

Imagine you saw a job description that read something like this:

WANTED: Someone willing to work long hours for little pay. You won't see your family as much. Some people won't like you. Some may even be angry with you. You might have to leave your home and travel to new places. Your job will never end.

Would you want that job? That doesn't sound very exciting, does it?

It's not so different from what Jesus told his disciples when he sent them out to tell others about him. Jesus wanted them to know that sharing God's Word would not always be easy. And Jesus doesn't just send pastors and missionaries. He sends all of us to tell others about him. Sometimes people don't want to hear about Jesus. Sometimes they disagree with what God says. Sometimes they may even make fun of Christians.

That happened to Jesus' disciples. All of them suffered. Most of them gave their lives for their faith because they shared the good news about Jesus. But Jesus didn't tell those things to scare them. He told them something better. Jesus said: "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care" (verse 29).

Sparrows are tiny birds. Most people barely notice them. But God notices every single one. "Even the very hairs of your head are all numbered" (verse 30). God knows everything about you. He knows your name. He knows your thoughts. He knows your joys and your fears. And because he loves you so much, Jesus says: "Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows" (verse 31). What a promise! When Jesus sends us to share our faith, he doesn't send us alone. He walks beside us. He watches over us. He cares for us every day.

So, imagine reading this instead:

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WANTED: Someone to see God's love every day. You'll walk side-by-side with a Savior who never leaves you. There will be challenges, but you never need to be afraid. God will care for you so closely that he even knows how many hairs are on your head. And one day you'll live with him forever in heaven.

You don't have to imagine it. That's exactly the life Jesus has given you.

Questions to Consider

- Why do you think Jesus talked about sparrows?
- What does it mean that God knows even how many hairs are on your head?
- Why can you be brave when you talk about Jesus or share your faith?
- Who is someone you know that shares Jesus with others? Pray for them together.
- Jesus says that following him can sometimes be hard. If nobody has ever given you a hard time because you're a Christian, does that mean you aren't sharing your faith well? Why or why not?
- What does Jesus promise to do for those who acknowledge him before others? (see verse 32)