

LOOK AT THE BIRDS

When I was young, I thought “bird watchers” were eccentric and sort of strange. But now that I am older, I like to watch the birds. I love to listen to them when I awake in the morning, as they are full of song. Jesus, in emphasizing that we should not worry, points to birds to make His point.

Matthew 6:26 (NKJV)

26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

Here is an illustration of God’s providential care. If anything in this world is a picture of “carefree,” it is the birds of the air. They fly about here and there seemingly without a care in the world.

Birds are completely dependent upon God’s providential care. They don’t sow nor harvest, yet our heavenly Father feeds them. God takes care of the birds. They are reliant upon Him for their food.

Yet, it is pointed out that even the birds do have to work for their food. God doesn’t throw worms up into their nests. We often say, “The early bird gets the worm.” God provides, but He often does it through the means of hard work.

However, Christ’s point here is that God providentially takes care of the birds. And then He rhetorically asks, “Are you not of more value than they?”

And the expected answer is: Of course, we are of much more value to God than birds because we are created in the very image of God. Mankind is the crowning work of God’s creation, of the greatest value before Him.

Said the Robin to the Sparrow

“I should really like to know,

Why these anxious human beings

Rush around and worry so?”

Said the Sparrow to the Robin,

**“Friend I think that it must be
That they have no Heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me.”**

We need to remember who it is that feeds us. In truth it is our heavenly Father. How Christ taught us to pray is a continual reminder of this: “Give us this day our daily bread.” (Mt. 6:11).

And the birds remind us that it is normally by means of providential care that God does this, meaning God does it in the normal course of life through sovereignly controlling all the circumstances of life.

Here, in Matthew 6, Jesus emphasizes that if the lesser thing (feeding birds) is true, assuredly God will also accomplish the greater thing (feeding us).

1 Peter 5:7 (NKJV)

7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.