

Luke 12:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Analysis

Jesus assures: 'But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.' The phrase 'hairs of your head are numbered' (Greek 'trikes tēs kephalēs pantes ērithmēntai,' τρίχες τῆς κεφαλῆς πάντες ἡρίθμηνται, perfect tense) indicates God's comprehensive knowledge—He knows everything about us, even minutiae. If God tracks individual hairs, He certainly cares about our lives. The comparison to sparrows (v. 6)—worthless birds that God nonetheless provides for—argues from lesser to greater. We're 'of more value' (Greek 'diapherete,' διαφέρετε, differ, excel), therefore God surely cares for us. Fear dissolves when we grasp God's detailed care.

Historical Context

This comes during Jesus' teaching about persecution and confession (vv. 1-12). Disciples faced pressure, threats, and martyrdom. Jesus combats fear with truth about God's care—if He notes sparrows' deaths, He certainly watches over His children. The numbered-hairs statement demonstrates God's omniscience—nothing escapes His notice. Ancient Jews understood God's care for creation (Psalm 147:9—He feeds ravens) but Jesus personalizes it—God knows and cares about each individual's smallest details. This assurance sustained early Christians through persecution. Modern believers facing trials can trust the same detailed, comprehensive divine care.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the image of God numbering our hairs demonstrate His comprehensive knowledge and intimate care for us?
2. What does the comparison to sparrows teach about arguing from God's care for lesser things to His certain care for His children?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλὰ	καὶ	αἱ	τρίχες	τῆς	κεφαλῆς	ὕμων	πάνται
But	even the very		hairs		head	of your	all
G235	G2532	G3588	G2359	G3588	G2776	G5216	G3956
ἡρίθμηνται	μὴ	οὖν	φοβεῖσθε·	πολλῶν	στρουθίων		
are	not	therefore	Fear	than many	sparrows		
G705	G3361	G3767	G5399	G4183	G4765		
διαφέρετε							
ye are of more value							
G1308							

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 6:26 (Parallel theme): Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Luke 21:18 (Parallel theme): But there shall not an hair of your head perish.

2 Samuel 14:11 (Parallel theme): Then said she, I pray thee, let the king remember the LORD thy God, that thou wouldest not suffer the revengers of blood

to destroy any more, lest they destroy my son. And he said, As the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of thy son fall to the earth.

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