

Matthew 10:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

Analysis

Jesus illustrates God's providential care: 'Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father' (Greek: οὐχὶ δύο στρουθία ἀσσαρίου πωλεῖται, καὶ ἐν ἐξ αὐτῶν οὐ πεσεῖται ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν ἀνευ τοῦ πατρὸς ὑμῶν, 'are not two sparrows sold for a penny, and one of them will not fall to the ground without your Father'). Sparrows were the cheapest birds, worth almost nothing (an assarion was a small Roman coin). Yet not one dies outside God's awareness. 'Without your Father' doesn't mean God causes every sparrow's death but that nothing escapes His providential knowledge. If God tracks worthless sparrows, how much more does He watch over precious humans?

Historical Context

Sparrows were sold as cheap food for the poor. Luke 12:6 notes five sparrows sold for two farthings - so cheap a free one was thrown in. Jewish thought emphasized God's universal providence (Psalm 104:27-29, 145:15-16). Jesus uses economic logic - if God attends to valueless creatures, His care for valuable humans is certain. This teaching sustained persecuted Christians who faced martyrdom knowing God's sovereign awareness of their suffering and death.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's care for insignificant creation assure us of His care for us?
2. What does this teach about the scope and detail of God's providential knowledge?
3. How does recognizing God's awareness of all things affect our sense of security?

Interlinear Text

οὐχὶ	δύο	στρουθία	ἀσσαρίου	πωλεῖται	καὶ	Ἐν	ἐξ	
not	two	sparrows	for a farthing	Are	and	one	of	
G3780	G1417	G4765	G787	G4453	G2532	G1520	G1537	
αὐτῶν	οὐ	πεσεῖται	ἐπὶ	τὴν	γῆν	ἄνευ	τοῦ	πατρὸς
them	not	fall	on	G3588	the ground	without	G3588	Father
G846	G3756	G4098	G1909	G1093	G427		G3962	

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