

Matthew 10:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Analysis

Jesus concludes the argument: 'Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows' (Greek: μὴ οὖν φοβεῖσθε· πολλῶν στρουθίων διαφέρετε ὑμεῖς, 'do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows'). 'Therefore' (οὖν) draws conclusion from verses 29-30. The verb διαφέρω means 'differ, excel, surpass in value.' If God cares for worthless sparrows and knows trivial details, disciples can trust Him through persecution. The command 'fear not' appears repeatedly in this context (verses 26, 28, 31) - right fear of God (verse 28) eliminates wrong fear of circumstances. This is argument from lesser to greater about God's faithful care.

Historical Context

First-century disciples faced real threats - arrest, flogging, execution. Jesus doesn't deny danger but reframes it within God's providential care. The value argument echoes Genesis 1:26-28 where humans are made in God's image, given dominion over creation including birds. Early Christian courage in persecution testified to internalization of this teaching. Martyrs like Stephen, James, and countless others demonstrated fearless witness rooted in trust in God's sovereign care and eternal perspective.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing our value to God eliminate fear of earthly threats?
2. What is the relationship between trusting God's care and courageous witness despite opposition?
3. What specific fears need to be confronted with truth of God's providential care?

Interlinear Text

μὴ	οὖν	φοβηθῆτε,	πολλῶν	στρουθίων	διαφέρετε
not	therefore	Fear ye	than many	sparrows	are of more value
G3361	G3767	G5399	G4183	G4765	G1308

ὕμεῖς

ye

G5210

Additional Cross-References

Luke 12:24 (Parallel theme): Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?

Psalms 8:5 (Parallel theme): For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

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?