

8/16/18

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

After a severe storm the night before, there were several dead birds lying under the trees. It was almost as if those poor birds had fled to the trees seeking protection from the previous night's storms only to be struck by the trees and fall lifeless to the ground. It was sad to see them there.

But remember what Jesus says in Luke 12:6-7: *“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”* I did not know anything about any of those birds before I saw them lying dead under the trees. But God did. He had been caring for them their entire lives. And not one of them died in the storms and fell to the ground without God knowing about it. If God shows such amazing care even for birds, imagine what amazing care God must show toward us!

In fact, Jesus tells us, “The hairs of your head are all counted.” Do you know how many hairs are on your head? Scientists tell us that the average human head has between 90,000 and 150,000 hairs on it. So where, exactly, do you fall in that range? 113,245? 136,574? But wait, some hairs just fell out. So that means your hair count right now is... It's not possible for you to know right now exactly how many hairs are on your head. But God knows. Not a moment passes when he doesn't know exactly the number. In fact, not a moment passes when God doesn't know absolutely everything about you—your needs, your wants, the challenges you're facing, everything. If God knows you that

intimately, is there any way that he wouldn't also know precisely how best to take care of you?

So, “don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.” God already has demonstrated how much you are worth to him when he sacrificed his Son Jesus to take care of your greatest need—your need for forgiveness. Now, as he values you more than the birds and keeps a tally of the hairs on your head, you can trust him to take care of every other need you have. Nothing escapes his attention. Nothing is beyond his power. That's how intimately God knows you and cares for you.

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, may your intimate love and care for me overcome my fear and strengthen my confidence in you. Amen.*

(WELS E-Devotion, adapted)

Remember in your prayers:

...See you in worship.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

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