

# Family TableTalk

Conversation 17

## Birds, Hair, and God's Care

read

Luke 12:4-7

think

What is it that gets you scared? In a conversation with his first disciples, Jesus addressed the reality of their pressing fears. He knew that because they would be facing persecution for their faith. . . even to the point of death. . . that they could be paralyzed by fear. He assured them that those who could kill their physical bodies had only limited power, since he had already secured the destiny of eternal life for his followers. Because of this, he was able to tell them *"do not fear."*

He also told them that they *should* have a healthy fear of God. In this case, fear is not a paralyzing dread, but a healthy respect, honor, and reverence for the all-powerful God who cares for them.

In order to reassure his disciples of God's love and care for them, he paints an amazing picture of God's love by showing them how God cares for even the simplest details of his creation. God values the sparrows, who were seen at the time as the most common and least-valued of all birds. God cares enough about them that he doesn't forget any of them!

If God cares so deeply about the least of his creatures, then we should not be surprised at the unending depth of God's care and concern for us. Jesus tells us that we are of more value than many sparrows! And to emphasize the depth of God's love for his people, Jesus goes on to add that God's care for us is so extensive and all-encompassing that he even numbers the hairs on our head! In the midst of living in a world ravaged by brokenness, destruction, disease, and death, God is present and holding us in his hands!

apply

- What were the greatest fears you had as a child? What scares you the most now?
- Read Romans 8:28 together. What does this verse tell us about God's care and how his care works in our lives?
- What are some steps we can take to remind us of God's care when we find ourselves dealing with difficult circumstances that cause us to fear?

pray

Loving and caring Father, how easy it is to forget your presence and promises when we find ourselves getting scared. Help us to see the message of your care for us that is woven in and through your Word. And, when we find ourselves in difficult circumstances, bring to mind those truths we've read and re-read regarding your care that will carry us with great confidence through our fears. Amen.

**by Walt Mueller**

Walt Mueller is the President of the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding. To access Walt's blogs, podcasts, and other resources, visit [cpyu.org](http://cpyu.org).

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