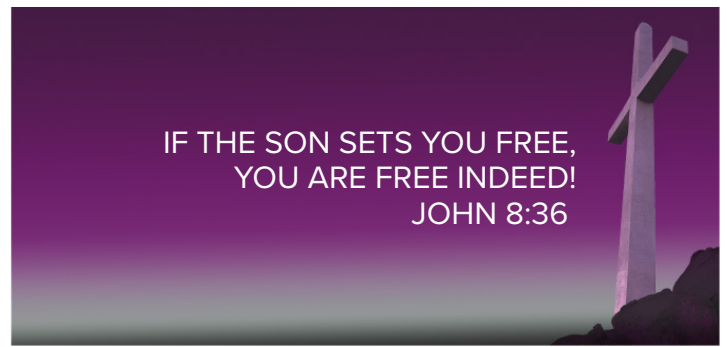


Jesus IOI

“Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

“Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.” –Luke 12:7

By the time I was six years old, my mother had saved my life many times. She had rescued me when I was drowning in a pool, she had run many miles when I was bleeding to death, and she had taken me to the hospital on several occasions when I couldn't breathe due to an asthma attack, just to name a few. As a kid, I was sure about one thing: I had great value in my parents' eyes. And that realization shaped my view of God as well.

The way God values each one of us should be a source of assurance for our souls. Jesus used images of nature to remind us that God cares for the smallest of flowers and animals, and that we are much more valuable than those. Moving from lesser to greater, Jesus utilized an argument style called *qal wahomer* (“how much more”), assuring His disciples that if God cares for the most insignificant of birds, *how much more* does He care for human beings, created in His image! I love the passage in Luke 12:6, 7: “Are not five sparrows sold for two cents? Yet not one of them is forgotten before God. . . . Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.” In other words, if God knows and cares for these birds, even though five of them are sold for two pennies, then how much more does God care for you! His loving evaluation of us, and what we mean to Him, is a guarantee that He knows us and cares for us. Why fear, if we know that He places such great value on us? The context of this verse is that even when facing persecution, difficulties, and hardship, we shouldn't ever doubt if God cares for us. He is sovereign and His wisdom surpasses our understanding of the situations we face in our lives, yet we can always count on His care for us. We are never forgotten! He knows everything about us; even “the very hairs of your head are all numbered” (verse 7). He knows every hurt, every tear, and every heartbreak; He cares about our afflictions. Don't forget that He valued us so highly that He gave His life to save ours. During difficult days, watch the birds, and remember how God views you. Yes, in God's view, you are much more valuable than many sparrows!

Talbot, Elizabeth *Jesus Wins!*, p. 36.