

Rev. Thomas Emery
“God Is Aware of Us” Matthew 10:24-39
Salem Presbyterian Church
Sunday, June 22, 2014

Our loving all-powerful God knows us and our needs, just like he takes care of common sparrows. But, I don't always believe that. I deny Christ in many ways. I deny him with empty words. I deny him with silence by not speaking up when I know that I should. I deny him with unfaithful actions. One person has asked: "If you were arrested for being a Christian would there be enough evidence to convict you?" I ask myself that question. How would you answer that question?

If we wish to enter into an ever increasing awareness of a loving union with the triune God, then we must expect a lifetime of dying to self-centeredness. We must surrender to God's complete control on all levels of human existence. We must know in our hearts that God is in control of our lives and aware of our thoughts and actions. This means that the love of God is discovered and experienced to the degree that we empty ourselves of all that may impede a total surrender in trusting love to God.

TEACHING POINTS

Teaching Point One: *Jesus is saying to us that, whatever trial we may be going through, God is aware and God cares.*

Teaching Point Two: *Such an awareness of the unconditional love of God should give us an enormous sense of freedom about living our lives.* We should be able to live joyfully and peacefully, as if we had not a care in the world.

Teaching Point Three: *The ultimate freedom in life comes from trusting your life to God.* The message of the Gospel is that we need *not* fear life nor death. We need *not* fear tomorrow nor today. We can live faith-filled lives, lives bolstered by our knowledge of God's love for us and God's presence with us.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

²⁹ "Aren't two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. ³⁰ Even all the hairs on your head are numbered. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are more valuable than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:29-31 NET).

ACTION POINT

We must see that being a follower of Christ is not an easy journey. He said that we must leave all to follow him. Jesus said that you will be persecuted, rebuked, argued with, called names, and perhaps even killed for his name. But Jesus has promised that all who confess him before others, will he confess before the Father. I believe this. Do you? Let us be faithful and live for Christ so we can have joy in all circumstances, not fearing life or death, knowing that our loving God who is fully aware of us, is in loving control of our lives!