

Wednesday, March 3

Today's Reading: Matthew Chapter 10

Today's Devotional Message is by Pastor Paul Baehmann

"But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. And the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows." Matthew 10:29b-31

Don't be afraid Jesus says. Fear has certainly been experienced by all of us at some time in our life. Whenever we get into a new and difficult situation, especially if it is potentially dangerous, the uncomfortable lump comes into the throat, our blood pressure rises and we experience what's known as fear. These kinds of feelings have been experienced by many Americans lately when they have lost their jobs, or when their retirement income was pretty much wiped out by the extreme fall in the stock market. Whenever we get into situations in which we feel we are no longer able to control what happens, feelings of anxiety and fear easily come to the surface.

Now to all these situations, no matter how difficult or big or serious they might be, Jesus would say to each and every one of us, "don't be afraid!" Why not? Because God is here with us and we are so valuable to Him. Why should that make a difference? Well, let me ask you, when you have something that's valuable to you do you take good care of it? I'm sure you do. The more precious something is to you, the more careful you would be. Now if you give that much care to a possession that you treasure, think of how much more carefully you would take care of and protect one of your children. The reason you would be more concerned about your children than you would about any possession is simply because you love your children. Even though they might not always please you, you love them. They can disappoint you and make you very angry, but you still love them and you try in the best way you know how to help them.

In this passage, Jesus reminds us that God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit loves us, each of us, with a love that never ends. When He says that He will never leave us and that whatever we face He's there with us, helping us to face it, we can trust Him and never doubt. So we have good reason to not be afraid because we know that this God who loves us so much has absolute wisdom to know what is best in any given situation and the power to do whatever needs to be done for us. So relax; let go of your fears and bask in the warmth of God's love.

Prayer: Help me dear God to give up all of my fears and to relax, trusting in You and Your love. Amen.